





## HOME NEWS

## Police computer files cover poaching and being suspected

By Stewart Tandler

Home Affairs Reporter

Convictions for offences such as poaching, vagrancy and being a suspected person are considered by the Home Office to be serious enough to warrant inclusion on the Police National Computer at Hendon.

The computer, which came into use in 1974, has greatly helped the police by providing a means for officers at the scene of a crime to check a suspect to check convictions immediately by radio.

Last week Dr Summerskill, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, was asked in a series of written questions in the Commons for details of the computer's contents. Mr Summerskill replied that the computer holds records of 3.8 million offenders and details of 2.2 million sets of fingerprints.

She said the 3.8 million names were of "people convicted of more serious offences" but gave no explanation for the 1.6 million discrepancy between that figure and the total for fingerprints.

Some fingerprint collections are not on the computer, but the Home Office and the Scotland Yard, which runs the computer, said that an unspecified part of the 1.6 million discrepancy belongs to juveniles, who are not required to give fingerprints.

The rest comprised offenders convicted of offences that the courts did not consider serious enough to warrant fingerprinting or where officers were convicted without having to appear in court.

The Home Office provides guidelines to police forces on

what is considered a "recordable offence" for manual records at the Criminal Records Office and for the computer.

The guide contains fewer offences than those listed annually in the Criminal Statistics but covers offences under common law as well as others, including the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950, as amended by the Rabbits Act and the Game Act, 1831.

The offences include: possession of cannabis, election offences, criminal libel, vagrancy, harassment of debtors, incitement to disaffection, obstructing the police, offences against public order, offences under the Rent Act, being a suspected person, travelling on a railway without paying, wasting police time and violent behaviour in a police station.

Convictions for attempting, inciting, aiding or abetting any of the 53 categories of offences are also "recordable offences".

While the computer was being built, questions were raised about the amount of information that would be stored and its nature. In 1972 the Police Review said that once a person went on file in the computer his name would remain there until the police considered he had reached the age of criminal ineffectiveness or had died.

So far the system has cost more than £15m, and it is considered to be the largest in Europe. By the end of this year it will have cost £100m. It will be provided, linking Hendon with police stations. The computer has capacity for records of five million criminals.

## Ruling 'means junior doctors can be thrown on scrap heap'

By Annabel Ferriman

A new agreement to protect the jobs of junior hospital doctors, avoiding consultants' claims to be sought from the Department of Health and Social Security after a decision yesterday by the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

The tribunal upheld the dismissal of Dr. Arun Bakshi, a senior registrar at Liverpool Royal Infirmary, because his period of postgraduate training was considered over. He was deemed to have reached the standard of a consultant even though he had been unable to get a consultant post. His appeal was supported by the British Medical Association.

Mr Justice Kilner Brown, presiding over the tribunal in London, said it was a sad case and Dr Bakshi had a raw deal. The quality of the services he had rendered the National

Health Service had never been disputed. No one took the position of registrar, however, thinking or hoping it would be a permanent appointment. Dr Bakshi had understood it was a temporary post when he accepted it.

He upheld the findings of an industrial tribunal in June, which said that Dr Bakshi, employed by the Liverpool Area Health Authority (Teaching), had a responsibility to junior doctors waiting on the promotion ladder and were therefore justified in dismissing him after he had held his post for four and half years.

Dr Robert Milstead, chairman of the British Medical Association's Hospital Junior Staff Committee, said yesterday that the outcome of the case meant that junior doctors were clearly not protected by the employment legislation.

"I must say that the result,

whether or not it is legally correct, is morally totally wrong", he said. "If you take someone into a training post and train them for 15 years for a career post, you cannot just jettison them at the end of it."

There has never been any question but that he is competent. No one should undergo such a long period of training and fail to get a career post simply because one does not exist. It shows that the Government has allowed a structure to evolve in which half of those training will not be able to obtain the posts for which they have been trained.

Dr Milstead said they would be looking for a new agreement whereby people in the position of senior registrar would not be "simply thrown on the scrap heap" when their training ended.

Dr Bakshi, aged 38, who qualified at Calcutta Medical College

in 1962 and came to Britain in the same year, said the case showed that the law was not willing to define the term "training" in the medical post. The authorities were able to label a post as a training post and make it last for as long or as short a time as suited them.

He is now a supernumerary senior registrar in Chester, a post offered to him by the area authority after he announced that he was taking it to a tribunal. He said yesterday that he did not know whether he would go to the Court of Appeal.

The Government cannot permit the new contract for the 12,500 hospital consultants to drive a coach and horses through the pay guidelines, Mr. Ramsall, Secretary of State for Social Services, said last night in a speech to the Colchester Medical Society (Our Health Services Correspondent writes).

He said he was conscious that many consultants worked very long hours and were totally committed to the interests of patients. He also recognized the wish of many to have a contract more closely related than at present to work load. But he hoped that they did not see a new and more flexible contract as a way to break the Government's pay guidelines.

He was sure that consultants accepted that pay policy applied to them as much as to others and that it applied to any new contract as much as to the old one.

"I cannot pretend that I am attracted by an industrial rather than a professional-type contract," he said. "I suspect that many consultants themselves have doubts about this new type of wage-sensitive contract. But that is for the profession to decide."

## Mr Heath is suggested as new Tory chairman

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Conservative MPs and officials were quick to repudiate yesterday a suggestion made in a magazine article that Mrs Thatcher might be considering the appointment of a successor to Lord Thorneycroft, the party chairman, who has recently had an operation for cancer.

The author of the article in *Time and Tide*, calling himself just "A Conservative", proposed that Mrs Thatcher in choosing a new "trumpeter" for the Conservative party should choose Mr Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister and party leader.

"Mrs Thatcher is a big enough leader to risk a chairman with charisma," he wrote. He said that the Tory Party had a compulsion, if unacknowledged, to elect a leader who was rapidly establishing himself as a formidable national figure and was readily accepted, even if with residual incredulity, as the alternative Prime Minister. Most Conservatives agreed that the author was a backbencher, Mr Patrick Cormack, MP for Staffordshire, South-west, is an associate editor of the journal.

The article emphasized that in the eyes of party members the chairmanship had a position second only to that of the leader. Wherever he went he could command large audiences. Although the front bench was competent, there had never been a greater need for a "trumpeter" chairman, "someone who can speak with vigour, arouse enthusiasm, visit the ranks of the faithful and, even more important as the general election fast approaches, reach out to a wider audience with the message that the Tory Party is indeed a party."

In a gentlemanly fashion the author expressed the hope that Lord Thorneycroft would soon be restored to health, but he pointed out that the chairman had had a long period of illness and he was nearly 70.

"If Mrs Thatcher feels, as well she might, that she still needs his sage counsel and advice she should follow precedent and either make him joint chairman of the party (Lord Peel in 1963), or even ask him to become deputy," the author suggests.

He is too big a man to see either request as demotion, or to refuse it? Mr Heath was the man who would kindle the Tory fires up and down the land. At Conservative Central Office yesterday there was no great enthusiasm for the idea. It was pointed out that Lord Thorneycroft, who has had an operation for cancer of the bowel, has now recovered and this week returned to full-time duties. He took part in a television programme on Thursday. He has returned to work on a recuperation trip to Barbados. Those close to Mrs Thatcher know that relations between her and Mr Heath, although far from perfect, are not as strained as the media suggest.

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## Separate pay review urged for 'protectors of society'

By Our Political

Correspondent

It is not wise or honourable to have a pay policy which treats the men who protect society as "protectors of society".

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## Strike plan by 57,000 bakers hangs on ballot

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

Millant bakery workers' leaders want to start their trade's second bout of industrial action in three months over pay. But this time the decision is being put to a national ballot.

The ballot is over an offer of an increase of a tenth by the Federation of Bakers, whose main members are the "big three" of RMB, Spillers French and Allied Bakeries. As in the last strike, private bakers would escape the effects for as long as they could obtain flour.

Mr Samuel Maddox, general secretary of the Bakers' Food and Allied Workers Union, said the result of the ballot of 57,000 members in England and Wales would be known shortly next Wednesday. Scottish bakery workers are not involved in the vote.

The main difference between the union and the employers is over the consolidation for overtime purposes of the 25 phase-one award and the 25 phase-two agreement.

Mr Maddox said that after three months' negotiation, members were impatient.

The employers are cautiously hopeful that a confrontation, under the terms of which Christmas supplies will be avoided, Mr David Duke-Edwards, director of the federation, said there was no indication of a strike.

He hoped the union would not slide into a position of intransigence. We are not looking for confrontation, he added.

The federation says that to meet the full claim would breach the Government's earnings guidelines. The union, it adds, is seeking a three per cent increase and three days extra annual leave.

A statement asserted that any disruption would put jobs seriously at risk and pointed to the closure of Hawley, a big independent bakery, after the last strike.

A winter's tale

The scene section of *The Sunday Times* tomorrow presents a celebration of winter, and offers advice on how to survive the joy, interest and cold weather months when sun and spooks are at a low ebb.

Mr Mark Goodman, aged 20, of Los Angeles, with Mrs Ray Goodman, aged 77, the former second wife of his grandfather, of Maida Vale, London. They announced their plans to marry yesterday, despite legal complications.

## Cyprus link is alleged in IRA 'gun-running' case

By Our Political

Correspondent

Electrical transformers shipped from Cyprus to Ireland under the name of Robert

McCollum, had been operating a company known as the Progress Electrical Company in Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

He described it as a front company. When arrested at his flat in Sandycove, Mr McCollum said he was John O'Neill, and had an Irish passport in that name. Mr Burke said.

The police had information that transformers had been sent from the Progress Electrical Company in Dublin to Antwerp to be delivered to a man in Llanelli, Cyprus.

Mr Burke added that when they reached Antwerp again, however, they were discovered to contain arms, ammunition and rocket launchers.

From our inquiries it is known that McCollum lived in Ireland from 1958 until 1965. He was not heard of here again up to his arrest.

## Alternative vote system for Europe proposed

By Our Political

Correspondent

The Scottish nationalists yesterday tabled an amendment to the European Assembly Elections Bill proposing that the alternative vote system should be adopted.

The amendment explains: "Each elector shall have one vote, which he shall list in order of preference 1, 2, 3, etc., up to the total number of candidates. Within this total the elector may use as many preferences as he wishes."

The Returning officer shall distribute votes according to first preference, and if no candidate has achieved over 50 per cent of the votes cast at this stage, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and his votes redistributed according to second preferences against his name. The process shall continue until one candidate achieves an absolute majority."

The Scots claim that that system is fairer and is more easily understood by the electorate than the present system of proportional representation proposed in the Bill.

## Airport director is suspended

By Our Political

Correspondent

Mr Geoffrey Sellar, director of Leeds-Bradford airport, Voston, has been suspended on full pay during inquiries into alleged irregularities at the airport.

That was announced yesterday by Mr Brian McAndrew, chief personnel officer of Bradford Metropolitan Council, one of three senior investigating team, who may not report for several months.

## New method for Bills on constitution suggested

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

Castigating the guillotined rush of the Scotland Bill as part of a lengthening "government's parliamentary show", Mr. Francis Pym has suggested an alternative procedure for constitutional Bills.

It might take up to three years each time, but that was no more than had already been spent on devolution.

Mr Pym, Conservative front-bench spokesman on House of Commons affairs as well as the devolution Bills, discussed his all-party constitutional proposals in a speech at Kirtling, Newmarket, last night.

First, an all-party conference or committee should examine principles and issues raised and suggest options, which the Commons would then discuss but not vote upon at this stage.

Then the Government should produce a Bill on the basis of those discussions, incorporating alternative proposals so that they could all be seen in legislative form. The House should then come to a conclusion on its basic choice.

The details, rather than the principles, should be examined in select committees, which could call witnesses and give evidence as witnesses. With that committee's report to hand, the Bill would then proceed through Parliament in the normal way, with a guillotine if imperative.

As matters stood with the Scotland Bill, only 14 out of 41 clauses had been discussed. Those proceedings "have shown just what sort of a government this is. No wonder they want to abolish the House of Lords."

That House, he said, was a "recuperation trip to Barbados



## HOME NEWS

# Minority groups get 2,000 more hostel places in £17m scheme

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

Battered wives, former psychiatric patients and the homeless will get up to 2,000 more hostel places a year under an initiative announced yesterday by the Housing Corporation. It expects to spend about £17m next year on supporting hostel projects offering a significant amount of care to these groups.

The initiative removes the barrier preventing the Housing Corporation from financing specialised hostel projects for minority groups, including former offenders. Until now the corporation has been unable to approve more than a handful of such projects because they have not met the "general element" of support for residents, making them ineligible for housing association grants.

The Department of the Environment, which provides the finance for the corporation, has agreed to change its rules. Housing associations can now develop hostel projects with a substantial amount of care, provided the "general element" is met from other sources.

Housing associations will be able to apply for grants to develop purpose-built, or rehabilitation schemes for disadvantaged groups in association with voluntary organisations, which will provide the specialist care.

necessary for the tenants or residents of the projects. The corporation expects to divert about 5 per cent of its budget to such schemes, more than ten times the amount it has been able to spend on them so far. The first requests for grants are expected in the spring, and the first scheme is expected to open in about eighteen months.

As well as providing capital grants for much needed hostels, the initiative could result in more physically handicapped people being able to leave residential homes and patients in psychiatric hospitals being able to return to the community.

Thousands of people are in homes and hospitals only because there is no accommodation in the community where they can receive the support they need.

The initiative comes after a working group, including representatives of the Housing Corporation, agreed that a change was needed. Mr. Robin Holmes, head of the housing policy division at the Department of the Environment, emphasised yesterday that hostels could never form more than a "tiny proportion of overall housing provision."

"People prefer self-contained accommodation and that still makes sense in housing terms," he said. "We are really talking about hostels providing a substantial degree of care, but not a high degree of residential care which must be a social services responsibility."

## Milk to go up 1p a pint as pricing system changes

By Hugh Clayton  
Agricultural Correspondent

The price of milk will rise by 1p a pint to 12p on New Year's Day. It will be the first increase since last May and will mark the end of the three-year-old milk subsidy and the start of a new system for pricing milk.

Mr. Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, admitted yesterday that the rise would give farmers less than the Government had led them to expect. He had been asked to increase the price in 1978 would be and had calculated it at 5p a gallon.

Farmers would in fact receive only 49p or 50p, partly because high prices of tea and coffee had cut demand for them and therefore for milk, he said. He believed that dairy farmers had enjoyed their best year for profits in real terms since 1972.

His decision was immediately criticised by the National Farmers' Union and the Milk Marketing Board. The Milk Marketing Board said: "The housewife will pay more to cover the loss

of the consumer subsidy and increased distribution costs. The minister has effectively reduced the producer's return over the four months from December to April by about 2p a pint."

Mr. Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union, said that the rise would damage confidence on dairy farms. He called for a new way of calculating the price should be based on 12p until the autumn of next year. The January rise might stop the recovery from low consumption that had just begun.

On New Year's Day the transitional period of British membership of the EEC and present ways of pricing milk and other farm produce will end. There will be a lot of farmers who do not understand that the guarantee arrangements are going to end on December 31, Mr. Silkin said.

## Fears for Worcester's architectural heritage

# Empty buildings and signs of urban disease worry conservationists

From John Young  
Planning Reporter  
Worcester

"Worcester is an ailing city, showing no signs of early recovery. Its population is dropping, its historic heritage is descending into decay, its business and trade are falling away, tourists and shoppers are defecting to other more welcoming towns."

Such words, appearing as editorial comment in the local Evening News last week, must at first glance appear unduly pessimistic. Despite hideous traffic difficulties, which appear to have been exacerbated rather than relieved by a baffling one-way system, Worcester remains an attractive, historic and congenial place in which to live and even the darkest December day.

But earlier this year the Worcester County Council was approached by a survey published by the local civic society. It recommended that more than half the properties in the city centre were completely or partially empty. A total of 261 out of 486. Of these 261, more than half were listed as of historic or architectural interest.

In recent months concern about Worcester's plight has begun to take on a more serious tone. Conservationists are worried about the threat the "disease" poses to many of the 300 or so buildings in the city, but there is also fear that the urban disease that has afflicted places like Birmingham and Liverpool may be spreading to other smaller towns and cities.

The two pillars both interlaced and conflict. Ten years ago, when Worcester was enjoying an economic boom, the city centre was only the site of historic ruins of the city to make way for new offices, shops and parking spaces.

Mr. Trevor Wade, a secretary at Cheltenham School of Architecture and former chairman of the Worcester Civic Society, concedes that the pessimism has since swung sharply in the opposite direction.

He maintains that it is still not aware of the enormity, and attributes the decay of the city's architectural heritage to indifference by the council. They may be right, but it is not a simple matter to say "but you can do something about it."

Mr. Wade, who is chairman of the civic society in 1974, after a brief hiatus, wrote to the society which activists claimed that the society had failed to be an effective watchdog. They were supported by Mr. Timothy Conall of the Trust, who wrote to the society which activists claimed that the society had failed to be an effective watchdog.

However, a walk through the city centre today shows old and new buildings festooned with "For Sale" and "To Let" notices, suggests a deeper



Empty premises and "To Let" signs in Meacham Street.

malaise. While there are relatively few vacant shop fronts, many of the upper floors are empty.

Such evidence of economic difficulties may well carry more weight among local people than arguments about conservation. A survey a year ago indicated that very little interest in environmental matters, and more than one councillor has argued that many listed buildings are "alms" and should be pulled down.

Mr. Trevor Wade, editor of the Evening News, which has strongly supported the conservationists, argues that physical decay and economic decline are closely related. "Progress is synonymous with conservation, not opposed to it," he says.

The council considers that the city's survey was "misleading". Its interest in the city's heritage has been demonstrated, the council says, by the restoration of the Commandery,

which was used as the Royalist headquarters during the Civil War, and by its decision to forgo a compulsory purchase order on the late-eighteenth-century Court of Huntingdon's chapel. That had been scheduled for demolition to make way for an extension to the Guildhall.

Last year, a "conservation architect" was appointed to advise on finding new uses for old buildings and no designated protected areas. But Worcester is desperately short of money; it receives a fraction of the grants made available to cities like Bath and Chester.

An official of the city architect's department disputed the idea that the views of one or two councillors reflected those of the council as a whole. "If that were so, how could we have got them to agree to the designation of four conservation areas already? The real problem is that we simply have not got the powers that we need."

## PARLIAMENT, December 9, 1977

## Conservatives complain about raw deal for Servicemen

House of Commons

Britain's soldiers, sailors, and airmen were getting a raw deal, Mr. Graham Page (Conservative, C) said yesterday in the House of Commons. He said that the Government must have regard to what was said there about the danger of soldiers leaving because they could not possibly exist on the wages they were now paid.

Mr. Hugh Fraser (Stafford and Stone, C) said the forces were facing falling efficiency because pay was such that key men were leaving. But they were not allowed to increase military pay at the expense of equipment. A new body must be established to deal with these matters.

Mr. William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) said that, in regard to the hardship of the Armed Forces in Northern Ireland, there were some soldiers who had never been there.

But (he said) this Government had given their wives £5,000, last year, a year. (Conservative protests and interruptions.) I shall spell it out. Captain Mark Phillips, who I am talking about, was Mr. Winston Churchill (Stretford, C) on the Opposition front bench.

Mr. Hamilton asked for information and I have given it. That soldier has never gone to Northern Ireland. Some have gone to any army in my constituency have had at least four tours there. It is not a hardship, it is a privilege.

Mr. Hamilton said that the British Army has (Conservative shout of "Rubbish"). Mr. Hamilton (Conservative, C) said that the British Army has (Conservative shout of "Rubbish").

The country could not afford to have the disgruntled and discontented Armed Forces upon whom increasing burdens were placed and who were being asked to do more and more with less and less.

There was a fantastic amount of hypocrisy about the Government's 10 per cent policy. In the present circumstances, it was not a policy that could be special cases.

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Mr. Winston Churchill, Opposition spokesman on defence (Stretford, C) said that the Government was in a public eye because they were on strike. A far greater crisis existed within the Armed Forces, only it was concealed by the fact that they had no means of expression.

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Mr. David Weisman (Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Lab) said there was a scathing article in The Times this morning and the Government must have regard to what was said there about the danger of soldiers leaving because they could not possibly exist on the wages they were now paid.

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He would mock the firemen, who earned every penny, but it was fair to point out that the Servicemen who were replacing the firemen were getting £10-£12 less for their 34 hour week than the firemen had for their 48 hour week.

When he visited Northern Ireland earlier this week he was appalled at the conditions. There were 100,000 in Belfast and Londonderry working a 108 hour week. It was well known how deeply the Labour movement felt about the situation. He had seen Mr. Winston Churchill (Stretford, C) on the Opposition front bench.

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## Noise levels in hospital 'unhelpful'

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

Amoying noise in hospital wards is a little below the average found on a London street corner, according to a study by doctors at St Mary's Hospital, London.

Patients admitted for surgery slept less, partly because of noise. Noise levels in a surgical ward and an intensive care unit were higher than internationally recommended limits at all times of the day. Loud, annoying noises were common.

The doctors, led by Professor Hugh Roper, who is in charge of surgery at St Mary's, conclude in their report published in the British Medical Journal yesterday that on the face of it the level of noise is unlikely to help patients to recover.

During the day the level of annoying noise taken with background levels reached 65 decibels in the ward and 72 decibels in the intensive care unit. At night, the level of annoying noise was 55 decibels in the ward and 62 decibels in the intensive care unit. The continuous noise on a London street corner averaged between 70 and 80 decibels.

At night the noise in the intensive care unit reached 62 decibels. Noise from respirators, suction tubes, and other equipment and conversations among the staff were to blame.

In the ward, nurses' footsteps on wooden floors, coughing, sneezing and patients' cries added to the noise level. Vacuum cleaning between 8 am and 9 am produced high noise levels.

Staff need to be educated about annoying noise, the doctors say. Outer floor covering might help.

## Strasbourg plea on judge's case

Mrs Winifred Ewing, Scottish National Party MP for Moray and Nairn, said yesterday that she will approach the European Parliament about Mr. Peter Thomson, whose dismissal as Sheriff of South Strathclyde, Dumfriesshire and Galloway, was upheld by the Commons this week.

She will raise the subject in Strasbourg next week with a view to having the case heard by the European Court of Human Rights. Mr. Thomson was dismissed for political activities.

Runaway cow  
A cow which went berserk after escaping from Salisbury cattle market yesterday crashed through the front window of a house and damaged furniture before being recaptured.

## Some supermarkets forgo profit to sell turkeys

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Turkey farmers opened their traditional season of high turnover yesterday by saying that some supermarkets were forgoing profit to sell turkeys.

Mr. Raymond Twiddle, chairman of the British Turkey Federation, said that the price should be frozen at 12p until the autumn of next year. The January rise might stop the recovery from low consumption that had just begun.

On New Year's Day the transitional period of British membership of the EEC and present ways of pricing milk and other farm produce will end. There will be a lot of farmers who do not understand that the guarantee arrangements are going to end on December 31, Mr. Silkin said.

However, a walk through the city centre today shows old and new buildings festooned with "For Sale" and "To Let" notices, suggests a deeper

malaise. While there are relatively few vacant shop fronts, many of the upper floors are empty. Such evidence of economic difficulties may well carry more weight among local people than arguments about conservation.

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which was used as the Royalist headquarters during the Civil War, and by its decision to forgo a compulsory purchase order on the late-eighteenth-century Court of Huntingdon's chapel. That had been scheduled for demolition to make way for an extension to the Guildhall.

Last year, a "conservation architect" was appointed to advise on finding new uses for old buildings and no designated protected areas. But Worcester is desperately short of money; it receives a fraction of the grants made available to cities like Bath and Chester.

## Probation for man who was eight years in Rampton

From Our Correspondent

Mr. Adams, who spent eight years in Rampton Hospital, was sentenced to probation for three years. When a charge of murder was put to him again yesterday he changed his plea to guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Mr. Adams, aged 27, had pleaded not guilty to murdering Mrs. Frances Mallett, aged 77, a widow and his great aunt, who was found strangled at her home in Stanley Terrace, Maltby, South Yorkshire, in July, 1969.

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## Council plans to move into its own county

Northumberland County Council, which for three and a half years has had to work from offices in another county, is likely to establish new permanent headquarters at Morpeth, about 15 miles north of Newcastle.

Under local government reorganization in 1974, the council found itself using its original headquarters at the Shire Hall, on the north bank of the Tyne, which had become part of the new metropolitan county of Tyne and Wear.

The chairman, Lord Ridley, announced yesterday that a special subcommittee had decided to recommend a £7m plan for a new county hall at Morpeth where 30 acres of land has been acquired.

The Government Property Services Agency is understood to be interested in buying the Shire Hall as a court extension.

Woman accused of three murders  
Mrs. Anna Marie Halvorsen, aged 33, of Meadow Road, Worthing, Sussex, was committed to Worthing Magistrates' Court yesterday in custody for trial at Lewes Crown Court charged with murdering three elderly women.

She is charged with murdering Jeanette Chalk and Edith Ansell, both aged 84, in 1974, and murdering Charlotte French, aged 68, in 1975.

## Rise above 10 per cent ruled out

Mr. John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence (Defence, C) said the Government had no intention of raising pay above 10 per cent.

Ministers and Service chiefs were well aware of the anxiety in the Services about their pay and conditions, Mr. Gilbert said. Comparisons with other professions were not a valid basis for pay rises.

The country owed a great debt to the Armed Forces. It was not a policy that could be special cases. It was not a policy that could be special cases. It was not a policy that could be special cases.

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## UK position on fishing understood

The position of the United Kingdom in regard to fishing now seemed to be better understood by other members of the European Economic Community, Mr. John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a statement.

Responding to the meeting of EEC agricultural ministers in Brussels from December 5 to 7, he said he again emphasized that the Government's policy was to conserve the fish stocks and to ensure that the fishing industry was a sustainable one.

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## NO ROOM

There can never be any hope of our being able to accept many of the elderly people on our waiting list, unless you will help us to extend our accommodation immediately. If you give quickly your gift will be doubled because we have been promised £90,000 if supporters subscribe the same. Every £1 is worth £2.

Please send a special Christmas gift now, marked 'Target 90' to Mr. Brian I. Gallin, M.A., B.Sc., Methodist Homes for the Aged, Freeport, London SW1P 3BR (no stamp required).

Methodist Homes for the Aged  
11 Tufnell St, Westminster, London SW1P 3SD  
Secretary: Brian I. Gallin, M.A., B.Sc.  
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WEST EUROPE

# Mr van Agt begins talks with Dutch ministerial candidates

From Our Correspondent Amsterdam, Dec 9

Mr Andries van Agt, who will be the new Dutch Prime Minister within a matter of days, today started formal interviews with Christian Democratic and Liberal candidates for his new centre-right Cabinet.

Mr van Agt will have the distinction of leading one of the most unexpected governments in Dutch parliamentary history. It was formed more than six months after the elections on May 25 in which, by Dutch standards, the outgoing Prime Minister, Mr Joop den Uyl's Labour Party won a landslide victory by gaining 10 seats in Parliament and becoming the largest political party.

There was general agreement that the result of the election could only be interpreted as a mandate for the continuation of the den Uyl left-of-centre coalition.

Mr den Uyl now will be the Leader of the Opposition, which in itself is unusual. Since the Second World War no outgoing Prime Minister has ever returned to Parliament to lead the Opposition.

Even the Dutch, used to the intricacies of forming viable, if sometimes unlikely, political combinations are somewhat confused by the present situation.

This is compounded by the fact that whereas it took Mr van Agt's Christian Democrats some five and a half months to decide that a coalition with the Socialists was out of the question, it took Mr van Agt little more than two weeks of almost leisurely bargaining with the Liberals to reach almost total agreement.

In fact, Mr van Agt had more trouble with his own left wing,

of which seven members have refused to approve his pact with the Liberals, than he had with his present coalition partners.

It is obvious that Mr van Agt feels far more at home with the Liberals than with the Labour Party. While a clash of personalities is no doubt part of the reason why talks between the Christian Democrats and Socialists broke down, the basic stumbling block was mutual distrust.

The rapidity with which the Christian Democrats and Liberals managed to reach an agreement is partly due to the fact that much of the spadework had already been done in the earlier talks with the Socialists, partly to the relative weakness of the present pact and partly to the eagerness of the Liberals to govern.

The distribution of portfolios in the new Cabinet (Christian Democrats 10, Liberals six) also reflects the fact that while the Liberals managed to climb from 22 to 28 seats in the May elections and are now the third largest party, they are far behind the Christian Democrats who, with 49 seats, gained only one.

It is expected that Mr van Agt's Government will survive for the time being if the legislation it proposes is not too controversial.

This may prove to be difficult as relatively drastic measures need to be taken after more than eight months of caretaker government. The Socialists' opposition to a budget, expected to be passed in January, is taken as a sign that the country's political temperature is taken near March when provincial elections will take place.

# £650m EEC plan for Mediterranean farms

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Dec 9

A proposal to spend £650m over five years to modernise and restructure Mediterranean agriculture to meet the challenge of further enlargement of the EEC was unveiled today by Mr Frans Olyver, Dutch Minister for Agriculture.

The Commission's proposals are aimed mainly at modernising the French and Italian who have indicated that their approval for Greek, Spanish and Portuguese membership will depend on getting satisfactory assistance for their farmers in facing competition from the newcomers.

At the same time, Mr Olyver announced the Commission's farm price proposals for the 1979-79 crop year. These envisage an overall increase of 10 per cent in average prices, which is estimated would raise food prices by 0.5 per cent on average and the cost of living by 0.1 per cent.

The real price increase required by farmers would vary greatly from one country to another, however, because of adjustments to the special "green rates" used to convert units of account, in which the minimum price are expressed, into national currencies.

The Commission is proposing that all member states should accept a minimum one-seventh reduction next year of the gap between the "green" and market values of their currencies. In Britain's case, this would give farmers an extra 3.25 per cent price

increase, bringing their total real increase to 5.2 per cent.

The increases for other countries would be as follows: West Germany, 0.5 per cent; Belgium, 1.5 per cent; 2.3 per cent; France, 3.9 per cent; and Italy 4 per cent. These figures are based on the gaps between "green" and market rates existing at the end of last month.

Mr Olyver made it clear that the Commission reserved its right to propose much bigger adjustments to "green" rates before EEC agricultural ministers meet to take their final decision on the price package in February next year. Ministers will get their first look at the proposals next week.

One of the most controversial proposals is a 2 per cent price rise for milk.

Among the package of Mediterranean measures are: irrigation schemes in southern Italy; replanting vineyards with higher quality vines and conversion of marginal vineyards to other uses in the Languedoc Roussillon region of France; improvement of marketing and distribution; and agricultural projects.

The package envisages a number of market measures, costing some £100m a year, including subsidies to olive oil producers to enable them to compete with the subsidies to French and Italian producers, on condition that they guarantee a minimum price to producers.

# Pope opens door to East and West

From Peter Nichols Rome, Dec 9

The recent meeting here of bishops from West and East Europe has highlighted a remarkable few months in relations between the Vatican and the European Community.

The meeting coincided with the historic visit to the Pope of Mr Giersek, the Polish party leader. It took place immediately after two optimistic lectures on détente and Europe delivered in Austria by Mr Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican foreign relations expert.

The lectures in turn followed a sermon and speech on European unity by Cardinal Benelli, the Archbishop of Florence, at the Vatican on December 1, the feast of the Holy Family.

The Cardinal, one of the Pope's closest advisers, argued that the Christian religion was the only possible basis for a future united Europe.

Mr Casaroli, speaking at Linz University, said the Vatican regarded the EEC with favour and had good relations with it. However the Holy See saw it as only a partial union,

and looked forward to a "more complete union" in the future.

On this Mr Casaroli made much of the Helsinki conference, which he called the first step towards a "new Europe". The Helsinki philosophy tended to overcome pragmatic ideological differences between the East and the West.

Addressing the Foreign Policy Association in Vienna, he said that tension in relations between the Vatican and a number of communist states was now relaxed.

The outstanding example of this relaxation is in relations with Poland. There can be no doubt of the importance of Mr Giersek's visit to the Pope, the first by a Polish party leader to the Vatican.

The Pope promised to support the Polish regime's efforts, and to meet the country's economic and social problems while Mr Giersek publicly recognised the Pope as a great figure in contemporary history. He also left the impression at the Vatican that he sympathized with the Eurocommunist views of



The Northern Ireland peace campaigners, Miss Mairead Corrigan (left) and Mrs Betty Williams, arriving at Oslo airport to receive the Nobel peace prize at a ceremony in Oslo University today.

# Talks on Spanish police reform

From William Chislett Madrid, Dec 9

The Spanish Cabinet met today to discuss the reorganization of the police forces after almost a week of demonstrations calling for autonomy in Andalusia, Galicia and the Basque country. In several serious clashes with the police one man was killed and several injured.

The Moncloa political pact signed in October between the Government and all the political parties except the right-wing Popular Alliance, details reforms of the structure and responsibilities of the police forces, which have yet to be worked out and put into action.

They include the creation of two police forces: a civilian force responsible for criminal investigations, and a military one made up of the civil guard

and the riot police for the maintenance of public order and to guarantee the exercise of democratic rights. The civil guard, the riot police and the control of the armed forces, would come under the Ministry of the Interior in matters of public order.

Senior Rodolfo Martín Villa, the Minister of the Interior, visited Malaga yesterday where on Sunday a young Communist was shot dead in a demonstration. This gave rise to further demonstrations causing more than £1m worth of damage to property. The minister said that the Government would pursue investigations.

He added that in certain circumstances, which he did not specify, the police were entitled to use firearms to defend themselves. He did not say whether the demonstrators were shot by the police, although he

# Stop-start trawlers may fish again

By Ronald Kersey

British trawlers in the north-east Arctic were told yesterday that they may resume fishing in the Norwegian sector. This is the fourth stop-start instruction since the beginning of November when the British shippers find that they will be stretched to catch their quota of cod before the end of the year.

All EEC vessels were ordered out of the Norwegian sector at the beginning of November when the EEC quota which Norway unilaterally imposed was exceeded.

The French then revised their catch figures and Norway said on Wednesday the EEC could take another 2,650 tons under certain conditions.

Apparently nobody bothered to inform Norway that these conditions would be complied with, and on Thursday, British trawlers found themselves fishing waters again. Permission was restored when the misunderstanding was cleared up.

# New move by Nato on troop reductions

From Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent Brussels, Dec 9

Nato powers involved in the East-West talks on troop reductions in central Europe will be more likely to do so after the expected strategic arms limitation treaty with the United States next year.

Meanwhile, Nato officials have been shaping a new set of proposals which could be presented at Vienna, perhaps in February, once the common data base has been agreed.

Nato is still insisting upon troop cuts which would bring down the force levels on both sides of the Iron Curtain to a common ceiling, and it is still demanding that the Russians withdraw a tank army from central Europe to help redress the balance.

But the new initiative is understood to be based upon a West German proposal which allows the Russians to remove Soviet troops from Europe but not the equivalent of one-third of the divisions being removed here and there across the central front.

A further concession might be that the West will guarantee a ceiling for the Warsaw Pact powers to the last Nato initiative of December 1975, which offered to trade Nato tactical nuclear weapons for Soviet tanks in an attempt to get things moving.

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# Monks dance and sing in Frankfurt court

From Patricia Clough Bonn, Dec 9

A group of Hare Krishna monks, in orange and white robes and with shaved heads, danced and sang to the beat of drums in Frankfurt's law courts today as 10 members of the sect went on trial on charges of fraudulent begging.

The monks are a familiar sight in many European cities where they chant and dance in the streets collecting money for hungry children in India.

The leaders of the West German branch of the sect are accused of sending to India DM15,000 (£3,700) of the DM2.4m they collected in 1974, and keeping the rest for themselves.

Investigations culminated with a police raid on the sect's temple at Schloss Rasthof in

OVERSEAS

# Israel hopes Mr Vance will persuade more Arabs to go to Cairo

From Edward Mordecai Jerusalem, Dec 9

My Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, is expected here tomorrow night on the second leg of his Middle East tour. As he will be coming from Cairo, Israeli officials are hoping he will give them a clearer idea of the agenda of the Egyptian peace conference, which opens on Wednesday.

Mr Vance's trip is seen here as having two main purposes: to reaffirm American support for Egypt's efforts in seeking peace with Israel through direct negotiations, and to widen the circle of Arab parties involved.

Mr Vance will be in Israel until Monday morning, and he will then fly on to Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Riyadh. This means he will be participating in the Cairo conference by the time it starts. (The United States is to be represented at the conference by Mr Richard Armitage, State Department official.)

The order of Mr Vance's calls suggests that he hopes to gain first the precise intentions of both Egypt and Israel, so that he can speak convincingly about the Cairo prospects in the capitals of the three Arab states involved by Egypt but which have not so far accepted the Cairo conference.

In the Middle East, the Israeli Arab leaders have been best to deal the rift in Arab ranks. Even better than an explicit Soviet endorsement of President Sadat's strategy at this stage, from the American point of view, might be discreet Saudi action behind the scenes to persuade Syria, in particular, to moderate its position and preparing the ground for reconciliation with Egypt later.

Although some Israelis were irritated by the initial rather cool American approach to President Sadat's initiative, officials here insist that they are not looking for a bilateral settlement with Egypt, and that

# Salesman 'completed operation for surgeon'

From Michael Leaphan New York, Dec 9

The operating theatre is hushed. Masked nurses can barely hold back tears. All eyes are on the handsome young miracle-worker as, with astounding deftness, he uses the latest piece of surgical equipment to extract some key malfunctioning component from the patient.

After what seems like eternity, he looks toward the surgeon. The tension is relaxed. Another operation completed, another life saved.

The familiar scene from television soap operas is played out regularly in real life in New York's hospitals. The difference is that sometimes the man with the magic fingers is not a qualified surgeon at all, but a salesman of medical equipment.

This was revealed yesterday at state legislative hearings in New York, looking into allegations that salesman sometimes perform surgery. The most startling evidence came from Mr George Schott, a salesman who said that in 1972 he helped a surgeon with some difficult head surgery.

He was, he said, trying to complete the sale to a hospital, which was not identified, of a new, high-powered surgical saw. The surgeon was testing it by cutting a round hole in a patient's skull, when it jammed.

The reason, said Mr Schott, was that the surgeon had the saw blade at the wrong angle. So the salesman, who had practiced previously only on cow bones, completed the job. He also made his sale.

Another salesman, Mr Larry Kluge, said that he was watching an operation in which an artificial knee which his firm had supplied, and saw that it had been put in backwards. The surgeon did not spot the mistake until Mr Kluge pointed it out; then he took the knee out and put it back the right way, asking the salesman to press down on a leg bone for one or two minutes while the cement was setting.

# Setback in Egypt for Husain unity mission

Beirut, Dec 9.—King Husain of Jordan, returned home to Amman today after a 24-hour visit to Egypt for talks with President Sadat without flying on to Saudi Arabia as earlier expected.

Observers said the King, who is trying to restore Arab solidarity after the split caused by President Sadat's recent visit to Israel, probably will not go to Saudi Arabia before next week. He may instead head off to Syria in Damascus earlier this week.

Reports from Cairo indicated that the King's talks with Mr Sadat had not gone well.

The official Middle East News agency quoted the President as saying that the King had offered to mediate between Egypt and Syria, but had a "wrong understanding of the concept of Arab solidarity."

Mr Sadat was also quoted as saying, "I regretted King Husain's decision not to attend the Geneva talks with Israel and to make a separate visit to Egypt next week unless all parties to the Middle East conflict took part."

In Kuwait meanwhile, President Assad met Kuwaiti leaders on a tour aimed at rallying Arab oil states against Mr Sadat.

Mr Assad arrived from Saudi Arabia on Tuesday and will spend his four-day tour with stops in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

The oil states, financial backers of the Arab League, have been bitter on the border of Somalia (South-West Africa) and Angola in what is developing into a sharply intensified war with Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organisation) guerrillas.

Scanty details released by Defence Headquarters in Pretoria today said that the soldiers were killed near the border. The remainder said "Drugs were later found in the area indicating that some terrorists may have been killed or wounded."

As usual, the Pretoria statement gave no indication of how many South Africans were wounded, just over a month ago. South Africa announced the death of a lieutenant and six NCOs in a border clash, and it is noted here that the latest figures include two more NCOs.

# Brandt North-South commission meets

Bonn, Dec 9.—Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, today warned the world against expecting too much from the new International Commission of Rich and Poor Nations which he met for its inaugural session today.

The Independent Development Issues is designed to improve relations between industrialized and developing nations. Chaired by Herr Brandt, it consists of seven representatives from the industrial countries and nine from developing nations.

It was formed on the initiative of Mr Robert McNamara, the West Banker, when the North-South dialogue in Paris achieved only meagre results.

Addressing commission members and guests at the opening ceremony in Bonn, Herr Brandt said no one could be certain whether the commission would succeed in adopting a common standpoint at the end of its 18-month work.

Speaking in English, he said it was worth while attempting to improve cooperation between industrial nations and developing states in the interest of world peace. "I am looking forward to the intellectual exchange which we are engaged in here," he added.

Four other former heads of

# More South Africans die in border war with Swapo

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, Dec 9

Three more South African soldiers have been killed on the border of Namibia (South-West Africa) and Angola in what is developing into a sharply intensified war with Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organisation) guerrillas.

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# Deal on Belize independence in sight

By Roger Bartholomew Britain and Guatemala appear to be moving nearer to a deal in which Guatemala would recognize the independence of Belize, whose territory it has long claimed, probably in exchange for small slices of the British colony.

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday that Britain had been having confidential exploratory discussions with the Guatemalan in an attempt to establish a basis for a further round of negotiations.

The last full negotiations took place in Washington in July, coinciding with British dispatch of a British troop movement to Guatemala.

Price, the Belize Premier, who attended the Washington negotiations.

Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 9.—Officials of nine Caribbean and Latin American countries met in Jamaica today to discuss developments in the Belize-Guatemala territorial dispute, including reported pressures on Belize to cede land to Guatemala.

Mr Henry Boyde, the Barbados Foreign Minister, who chairs the Commonwealth committee monitoring the problem, said yesterday that Barbados was hoping that the Jamaica meeting would remove any question of sovereignty of land. Barbados would in any circumstances support the idea of land cession.—Reuter.

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# Seamen's strike threat to Channel sailings

Paris, Dec 9.—French seamen today decided to halt French ferry services between France and England on Monday and Tuesday.

Union sources said they would also try to stop boarding and landing of non-French ships.

Ports affected are La Havre, Dieppe, Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk.

# Bonn Vice-Chancellor leaves hospital

Bonn, Dec 9.—Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister, was discharged from hospital here today after two weeks.

# Lisbon search for Cabinet

From Our Own Correspondent Lisbon, Dec 9

President Eanes of Portugal has begun talks in an attempt to find a new Government after the fall of the Socialist Government led by Dr Mario Soares yesterday.

After consultations with leaders of the three leading non-socialist parties yesterday, he received the single deputy of the National Democratic Union Party, who also voted against the Socialists, this morning.

President Eanes is also seeking advice from the Council of the Revolution, an advisory body set up to give him counsel on constitutional and national

# M Giscard d'Estaing dines with teachers

Paris, Dec 9.—President Giscard d'Estaing, who has made it an occasional practice to dine with an ordinary French family, was the guest of M Jean Marie, a headmaster, and his teacher wife at Montmorency last night.

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Five people killed  
Mr Desa  
Bhutto rival  
wins bail  
and flies home  
From Our Correspondent  
Islamabad, Dec 9  
The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was granted bail today after being arrested on charges of corruption. He was released from custody and allowed to fly home to London.

From Our Correspondent  
New Delhi, Dec 9  
The Indian government today announced that it had granted bail to a group of five people who had been arrested on charges of involvement in the assassination of a prominent leader. The government stated that the individuals were not a threat to national security and were being released on bail.

From Our Correspondent  
Tehran, Dec 9  
The Iranian government today announced that it had granted bail to a group of five people who had been arrested on charges of involvement in the assassination of a prominent leader. The government stated that the individuals were not a threat to national security and were being released on bail.















# Saturday Review



## The year a new world began

By John Terraine

The idea of the pre-1914 world as a kind of "golden age" has unquestionably been overdone. The years 1900-1914 simmered with agitation, volcanic movements shaking the fabric of society. Every one of the advanced industrial countries was affected: in Britain, between 1910 and 1912, dockers, miners, railwaymen and transport workers were constantly on strike; Ben Tillett, the dockers' leader, called it "a great upsurge of elemental forces". Equally elemental were the women's revolt, finding its expression in the violence of the Suffragette Movement, and the Irish Home Rule struggle, with its threat of actual civil war. In France, between 1906 and 1910 strikes were so frequent, so violent, so revolutionary in character that mobilization of the strikers into the army proved the only remedy against them. In Germany, the Marxist Social-Democrats became the largest party in the Reichstag. Less advanced countries were even more seriously affected: revolution in Russia in 1905, and in Spain in 1909, the year of Barcelona's "Semana Tragica". All this ferment was duly reflected in avant-garde art: French Fauvism, German Expressionism, Italian Futurism, with its pregnant manifesto: "There is no beauty except in strife." If this was a "golden age" we need to revise our vocabulary.

Nevertheless, it was an age very far removed from our own. The fact that it was not "golden" does not mean that it was not different; so different, indeed, in its manners, its dress, its techniques, its experience, compared with later generations, that it hardly belongs to the twentieth century at all. When we look at the people of 1900, or 1906, or 1914, we look at strangers; these, truly, are ancestors rather than parents or grandparents. Many of them, I dare say, still alive today, can scarcely recognize themselves. In fact, if we seek the first translation of the symptoms of our own world into reality, we shall not go back 77 years, but 60: we shall look at 1917.

First, just to make sure, let us regard its immediate predecessors. It is my belief that the old world, the old nineteenth-century world, lingered on right into 1915. Even the

war itself, though it was producing lethal novelties every day for the harassment of mankind, still had an old-fashioned look about it. The German in 1916, despite their modern weapons, still wore the spiked helmets which they had worn in 1866 and 1870; so did much of their cavalry, while the famous Uhlans wore the flat-topped caps whose origins are in Polish national costume. The Austro-Hungarian army, the British in the Balkans, the French in the pelisse which the British had left off as long ago as Belknap. The French were in red and blue, all wearing the pelisse which the British had left off as long ago as Belknap. The French were in red and blue, all wearing the pelisse which the British had left off as long ago as Belknap.

On this analysis—which goes deeper than mere outward appearances—it was 1916 that saw the death-throes of the old world. "1916" there was a change of style, a hardening of attitudes, new men with set expressions on their faces took the reins into their hands. 1916 has been called "the year of killing", which is not a bad name for it. The great battles of attrition, the normal "year" (what a word!) and various "side-shows" cost the three leading Western European nations nearly 3,000,000 casualties in that year: Germany, 1,400,000; France, 900,000; Britain, 666,000. Certainly 1916 killed off most of what was left of nineteenth-century attitudes and values. The world was never going to be the same after this.

So with a good deal of the old world now a ruin, we find a new world beginning in 1917 that was no more "brave" than

its predecessor had been "golden". Firstly, it came in with stage effects well suited to tragic drama. Snow, sleet and heavy frost descended on Europe in November 1916, ushering in one of the worst winters on record. It was to maintain its grip well into April 1917, by which time it had played a distinct and direct part in the vast changes now to unfold. In Germany, the premature frost caused a catastrophic failure of the potato crop which in turn produced the "Turnip Winter" of hideous memory, which is its own turn planted the seeds of future. In Russia that result ensued without delay: heavy snowfalls caused a transport breakdown, leading to food shortages and bread riots which turned quickly into revolution and the fall of the Imperial regime. We may as well start there; this was the first clear sign of the new world, the arrival of the twentieth century.

What happened in Russia in 1917 is unquestionably the most significant formative factor of this century. In the creation of the world's first communist state, scale was everything: it was all-important that a homeland of the vast size of Russia should provide communism with security even in its weakest moments, and it was no less important that a population of nearly 140,000,000 people could make up for all manner of material deficiencies. Awareness of this outcome can hide the fact that it did not all happen at once: the March Revolution seemed to point in a quite different direction, as the House of Commons Resolution moved by Mr Bonar Law on March 22 shows:

That this House send to the Duma its fraternal greetings and renders to the Russian people its hearty congratulations upon the establishment among them of free institutions in full confidence that they will lead not only to the happy and rapid progress of the Russian nation, but to the prosecution with renewed steadfastness and vigour of the War against the stronghold of an autocratic military system which threatens the liberty of Europe.

Russian liberals and West European democrats alike viewed the future through a haze of euphoria; the French Socialist minister, M. Albert

Thomas, visited Petrograd shortly after the revolution, and according to Sir Edward Spears, "Not understanding a word of the language, he wept with enthusiasm at all the speeches he heard... he took like a duck to water to the Russian national habit of kissing males on the mouth, and on one occasion kissed two hundred poets (Orthodox priests) with unabated zest."

It was the greatest tragedy of the year and of the century that this hopeful excitement turned out to be entirely misplaced, and that freedom in Russia was strangled shortly after birth—but that was yet to come.

Already, however, other unmistakable ingredients of the twentieth century were determined in its texture. It is a century in which technology has increasingly taken command; indeed, our profoundest tragedy is that artificial acceleration of technology—due to two world wars which has so palpably outrun humanity's capacity to control the process. In 1917, of course, it was precisely the technology of war, and its transformation of two elements, that spelt the novelty, and in so doing brought into play the second dominating political force of the century: the year submarine warfare and air warfare took on entirely new dimensions.

Submarine warfare had been a factor to reckon with since the beginning of the war; in 1915 it had achieved great notoriety through the sinking of the liner Lusitania, and all through 1916 it had been causing the British Admiralty and the Government increasing concern. But it was in February, 1917, that Germany's unrestricted U-boat warfare began—the very name has a ring of twentieth-century ruthlessness, like "unconditional surrender" in the next war. And it is indeed at this stage that the two wars begin to assume their bleakest dimensions: a total demand of 2,623,623 tons of merchant shipping sunk in 1917, comparing handsomely with the height of the Battle of the Atlantic, 1942, in which year 7,790,697 tons were sunk. So here, while doubt was an ominous harbinger, it was perhaps the Soviet Union's present massive fleet of submarines that will supply the ending.

The transformation of war in the air was also an ominous portent. Zeppelin airships, vast, sinister, frightening, began to raid Britain in 1915, and continued to do so until August 1918: the damage they did bore no relation to their size. Raids by single-engine aircraft between 1915 and 1917 were mere pin-pricks. Then, in May 1917, a new phenomenon appeared: the Gotha G.IV bomber, whose two Mercedes engines generated 520hp, and whose upper wingspan was greater than that of any German aircraft sent against England during the Second World War. The Gotha could only manage a cruising speed of 80 mph, but three well-sited machine guns made it a very difficult target to attack. The first Gotha raid was carried out by 21 machines on May 25 against Folkestone and Shoresham, killing 95 and wounding 195. In the first raid, the first Gotha raid, 162 were killed and 432 injured. But these statistics tell us little; the final total of casualties caused by German air raids of all kinds is 1,414 killed and 3,416 injured—a trifle by the standards of the Second World War. Yet, as the Chief of Imperial General Staff, Sir William Robertson, remarked as he came away from a Cabinet meeting, "One would have thought the world was coming to an end." As the raids continued, and the Gothas took to coming over by night, also, hundreds of thousands of people fled into the London Underground, and by September, night-shift output in the factories had dropped to 27 per cent.

So another face of total twentieth-century war became visible and the passion it aroused had far-reaching consequences. Public anger at the Gotha raids demanded reprisals against Germany; out of this demand two things emerged—the creation of the Royal Air Force, and the setting up of an "Independent Air Force" which was, in fact, the initiator of the concept of a decisive strategic air offensive against industry and civilian morale. The force available and the types of aircraft of 1917-18 were puny by comparison with the massed squadrons of Lancasters and

Flying Fortresses of the Second World War and their terrible successors, but it is in the operations of the Independent Air Force that we find the first rehearsals for the firestorms of Hamburg, the savaging of Dresden, and ultimately Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all that they imply. The coming of the Gotha was a coming of doom. However, it was not merely in the long term that these technological strides brought their retribution, and put a stamp upon our age. The sinking of the Lusitania with the loss of about 100 American lives had done much to turn America against Germany; that unrestricted U-boat warfare would further alienate American opinion, was anticipated by the German High Command. They were right: on February 3 the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany; on April 6 America declared war. The short-term consequences were mixed: Allied public opinion was, of course, greatly cheered, but it was with shock and dismay that the British Government learned from the military member of its mission to America that only about 150,000 Americans could be expected in France by the end of the year, and only about 500,000 by the end of 1918. As it turned out, the crises of that year brought a considerable improvement on this programme, so that by the Armistice there were over 2,000,000 Americans in France. Yet it is also true that effective large operations by the Americans did not take place until seven months after their entry into the war. On the other hand, the long-term consequence of their coming in is the second political fundamental of the century: an involvement in European and world affairs from which America has never been able to disengage herself.

In quick succession, events planted their imprimatur upon 1917 and upon the future. April, the month of America's declaration of war, was also the month of France's bitter fighting to regain prestige in Indo-China (Vietnam) and Algeria in 1917. The sense of chance, of deep, drastic change, was strong in Britain. Recruiting was a revealing symptom: between 1914 and 1916 no less than 3,403,663 voluntary enlistments were recorded in the United Kingdom—a last expression of the spirit of the nineteenth century. It was a staggering figure, but the war, of course, needed far more. As the flow of volunteers diminished, the Derby Scheme was devised to fill the need in 1916—"one of the half-weddings between Liberal idealism of Tory militarism and the measures of the Derby Scheme were still not enough."

It was followed by a

French scene stationed in Paris, reported: "France is very, very tired." The natural assumption was that Britain, having been relieved of the French in 1916, would continue to do so in 1917. General Nivelle thought otherwise; his plan, promising to decide the issue in 48 hours, called for a massive blow by a homogeneous force of 90 divisions; only France could supply that, so once more this would be a French battle.

Nivelle's offensive was launched on April 16, and it at once became obvious that the general did not possess the elixir of instant victory. In the aftermath of his failure, with the chagrin of more high losses and the depression of spirit from hope deferred, no less than 54 French divisions on the Western Front were affected by mutiny. Behind the front, there was a steady attrition of national morale by outrage and scandal, culminating in the arrest of the Minister for Home Affairs on a charge of treason. "Revolution," wrote Lord Belper, "is never very deep under the surface in France. The crust is very thin just now." The crust held in 1917, 1918, he says.

Nearly all the mines and workshops of Britain were in our hands. We controlled and we actually managed all the greater industries. We regulated the supply of all raw materials. We organized the whole distribution of our finished products. Nearly five million persons were directly under our orders, and we were involved on every other sphere of the national economic life.

Lenin himself could hardly have asked for more.

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a ruinous, shattering peace, with the threat of famine in it. From the dire consequences of this false act of the Bolsheviks were only by the victory of the Allies in 1918. From the dire consequences of having the world has never been delivered. The October Revolution, with all that flowed from it, is the most glorious act of our time. The most magnificent. One of the twentieth century—but as we have seen, history was not content with only one sign. History laboured the point.

*The Times* (London), 1977  
 This was originally written for *The Times*, coincides with the publication of *On the Road to the Revolution in the USSR, 1917: A Study in Revolutionary History* by John Turturine. Leo

lock's Toy Museum, 1 Scala Street, W.1 (near Goodge Street Underground station) sell a "Victorian" scrap album ready for use, with elaborate nineteenth-century cartouches, at £1.35. They also sell Elizabeth Raff's little book. The price is normally about £1, but it is reprinting at present, and the price will "depend on the kroner".

**Bevis Hillier**

men") in Dragon Gate's hot  
pungent "concrete"  
chicken. Lively with  
garlic and ginger (\$1.50), and  
the delicious, unfamiliar egg-  
plant with fish sauce (\$1.30)  
are less aggressive, and those  
who like the presence of  
meatballs in the market for  
new ways with tripe may care  
to consider the cold chilli-  
sauce version here, with  
Szechuan pepper (the region  
grows its own variety) and  
meatballs of luring somewhere  
in the background (\$1.30).  
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is not even licensed, and is due  
to make a few dozen awards  
in the New Year. Customers  
should emerge like all the  
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Closed Monday. Meals, 12-3, 6-  
12 (noon 1 am, Friday and  
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A la carte, 2.50-5.40.

Satyr House, 13 Galsgate  
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*O. claytoniana* and *O. regalis*.  
The oak fern, *Osmunda sensibilis* makes the most dense of thickets from which rise 12 to 24 in barren, oak-leaf shaped fronds, with the fertile fronds 1 ft higher.

Good plants to associate with ferns are bluebells, *Cardamine hirsutifolia*, *Anemone*, *Primula* *bluebell* and *Varela* *hirsutifolia* in spring, fogfoves, *Myopites* and nasturtiums for summer colour and, late in the season, *Angelica*, *polmones*, with very yellow flowers like trout earrings and maple-like leaves on 3 ft stems.


Sources of supply of ferns include Reginald Kaye, Silverdale, Lancashire, and Perry, Middlesex. Plant Farm, Enfield, Middlesex.

**Roy Hay**

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## Chess

## Writing about it

The case of the late Fred Reinfeld is a remarkable one. For and away—the most prolific of chess authors, with, at the height of his efforts, an annual production of at least half a dozen books, he was adept at rewriting other authors' books. My own library contains 62 books by him and I believe that to have been about one fifth of his output. To do him justice the quality of these books varies from good to indifferent and bad.

The indifferent books are the rewrites: *Botvinnik the Invincible*, which was published in 1946 with a foreword in which the author, with a sudden excess of candour, explained that he did not really prefer Botvinnik as invincible, *Tarrasch's Best Games of Chess*, published in 1947, a sort of watered-down version of Tarrasch's *Dreihundert Schachpartien*, and *Hypermodern Chess*, 1958, a reissue of *Nimzowitsch the Hypermodern*, first published in 1948.

First of all this book has appeared in the American Chess Review of the time, a review couched in the most glowing terms that occupied the whole of the last page. No full signature appeared but simply the initials FR, and your guess is as good as mine as to whether this meant that the review was by Fred Reinfeld.

There was hardly any excuse for the book since it was merely a pale reflection of Nimzowitsch's two great works, *My System* and *Praxis Meines Systems*. The weakness of the work is highlighted by the vivid and colourful wit which Nimzowitsch displayed in his books.

One shudders to think what Nimzowitsch himself would have said about Reinfeld's work had he lived another 13 years. No doubt he would have prescribed the same penalty as that suggested by the *Mikado* in the Gilbert and Sullivan opera for encompassing the death of the heir apparent. But what he would on the whole have approved of Ray Keene's *Aron Nimzowitsch, A Reappraisal* which was published by Bell's in 1974. This highly successful work covers its subject largely, though by no means entirely, to the fact that the author allows Nimzowitsch to speak for himself and makes no attempt to popularize the style in which Nimzowitsch speaks.

It is interesting to observe, however, that Reinfeld chose to concentrate such powers as he possessed (and it must be admitted that in the earlier stage of his writing career he was distinctly better than in the latter half of his life) on the two great antagonists, Tarrasch and Nimzowitsch. For some time it has seemed that Reinfeld and his teaching have been grossly underestimated, or as is the case in the United

States, disparaged. The *praeceptor mundi* was a very great teacher and could write on the game with considerable vigour and energy. I therefore intend to write myself a book, not as a reappraisal but as a sort of rehabilitation of Tarrasch.

In a little book, *Fifty Great Games of Modern Chess*, which I wrote while on active service early in the last war, I referred to him as "the great didactic genius who may be reckoned as the founder and teacher of the scientific school of chess".

Thirty-seven years have passed since then but I see no reason to modify or change my opinion now. Here is the game to which the text is a prelude. It was played in the great tournament at Göteborg in 1920 which was won by Richard Reti.

White — G. Breyer. Black — Dr. S. Tarrasch. Queen's Pawn Opening.

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## Records of the Year: the choice of The Times critics



Karl Böhm



Colin Davis



Elisabeth Söderström



Claudio Abbado

Some of the artists who made the year

### Long-awaited 'Boris'

Max Harrison

It is hard to choose between the new Decca Janáček *Káťa Kabanová* with Elisabeth Söderström and Musorgsky's *Boris Godunov* (RMV SLS1000, 4 LPs, £14.95), but the palm has to go to the latter because we have waited so long for a recording of the original version. One has some reservations about the performance, by mainly Polish forces, yet Martti Tälvelä makes an interesting Boris and it is marvellous to be rid of Rimsky-Korsakov's bowdlerisations.

Again, it is difficult to pick from among several outstanding pianists, hard to leave out Harish Mthine's inspiring account of the Liszt-Busoni *Ad nos ad subterream undam* on L'Oiseau-Lyre. But the decision

must go to Lazar Berman's complete recording of Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage* (DG 2708 076, 3 LPs, £11.85), which fills a large gap in the catalogue with performances that vividly reflect this wide-ranging, slight, sounds and emotions evoked by this music.

Finally, and still in the nineteenth century, the new Colin Davis recording of Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* (Philips 6700 106, 2 LPs, £7.95). Highly idiomatic throughout, of course, this is not in every respect a superior interpretation to his earlier (1961) version, but that was beginning to show its age as a recording, and on the new set we have a fine Mary and Joseph in Dame Janet Baker and Thomas Allen.

John Higgins

The operatic releases of the last two months have been so impressive that there is a temptation to look no farther than last quarter of the year. Decca have produced *Káťa Kabanová* and given Janáček a rich sound on disc that he has never been accorded before. CBS's *Levi Eliaz* was full of delights. DG produced a new *Traviata* which eclipsed all its rivals even in such a frequently recorded work. I cherish these, but even so, the first choice goes to DG's *Simon Boccanegra* (2709 071, £11.85). I have long felt that the very best opera sets have their genesis on stage, and *Boccanegra* could scarcely argue that particular case more strongly. The feeling of La Scala's superb production is there in practically every bar, thanks to the presence of Claudio Abbado, Piero Cappuccini in the title role and Mirella Freni as Amelia. EMI apparently handle their archive music more dextrously than any other company.

Or is it just that they have more of it? The Art of Justus Björling does that great artist justice in taking his career from the very first songs recorded when he was still a teenager through to 1950. Three records and nearly five dozen tracks. Splendid value at £7.50. (RLS 715).

All this richness at the end of the year should not obscure admirable issues early on. RCA, for instance, produced a definitive *André Chénier* in late summer with Domingo and Milnes in top form and James Levine of the Met proving that he is one of the world's greatest opera conductors in case anyone needed reminding. Even so, I will award third choice to Colin Davis's *Tosca* for Philips (6700 108 £7.00). Before this he hadn't conducted Puccini since leaving Rosebery Avenue. Perhaps absence makes the heart grow fonder. This is a stupendous performance, with Jose Carreras in ardent voice as Cavaradossi. Davis has introduced further excursions into the Italian repertoire. Enjoy!

### Superb Söderström

William Mann

1977 has been a vintage year for Elisabeth Söderström. There was Delius's *Fennimore and Gerda*, dominated by her portrayal of the two title roles; then she and Vladimir Ashkenazy brought out a third disc of Rachmaninov's songs. She crowned these achievements with the namepart in Janáček's *Káťa Kabanová*, made in Vienna with a largely Czech cast, with Charles Mackerras conducting a true and moving interpretation, superbly recorded by an English Decca team. It's a new landmark in the distinguished procession of Decca LP operas, and as such must be my first choice. (DSD12 £8.50, KS1K2 £8.50).

Philips's *Orlando Paladino*, conducted gently by Dorati, at last revealed Haydn to me as a great composer of comic opera, with an expert cast and vivid production. (Philips 6707 029 £12.25).

For Christmas present purposes I feel bound to select one single record: final choice must go to the recital of Verdi and Puccini operatic arias sung by Sylvia Sass, a soprano whose appearances in *Otello* and *I Lombardi* whetted the appetite for this British debut record from Decca. The Puccini side is, vocally and interpretatively, magnificent, including an unlikely but riveting *aba-ba-ba* at Turandot; the Verdi items include some near-misses, though Lady Macbeth's sleepwalking scene seems out. The recital (particularly effective in cassette form) suggests that Miss Sass may, with her musical and dramatic gifts, help to console us for the loss of Maria Callas. (SXL 6841 £3.99, KSXC 6841 £3.99).

Paul Griffiths

It has been my good fortune this year to encounter several outstanding new recordings of the standard orchestral repertoire, but none has returned to my turntable and cassette deck so frequently as Karl Böhm's set of Bruckner's last two completed symphonies, the seventh and eighth (DG 2708 083, £11.85). Blessed with superb playing from the Vienna Philharmonic, these are noble triumphs.

In the field of contemporary music the record of the year for me is undoubtedly that of Stockhausen's *Trans* (DG 2530 726, £3.95). You hear a tight skein of orchestral string sound and, behind it, the strange murmurs of the wind and percussion, more or less regularly joined by the clatter of a weaving shuttle flying across the stage. Like a dream, heavy with meaning but inexplicable, this is a work that will lodge itself in the mind and not be disturbed.

But we cannot spend all our

Joan Chissell

As it's Silver Jubilee year I'm going to start with EMI's four-disc box of British piano concertos by Williamson, Tippett, Rubbra, Rawsthorne (Nos 1 and 2), Bliss, Britten and Ireland. They're excellently played by a variety of artists, and though the recordings are reissues, some dating back to the 1950s, the sound comes up as fresh as the music itself. In sum a splendidly patriotic set

of rescue, and a bargain at £7.25. (HMV SLS 5080).

Nineteen seventy-seven brought not only the Silver Jubilee but also the 150th anniversary of Beethoven's death. Two salutes to him for my second place, Brendel's super-charged performance of the Diabelli Variations, recorded during a recital at the Festival Hall (Philips 9500 381, £3.99), and the Netherlands Wind Ensemble's lively and spirited assemblage of works for wind ensemble complete (Philips 9500 087 £3.99). Loath as I am to pass over

Richter's fine account of Dvorak's neglected piano concerto in its original version, my third choice has to be a two-disc album containing three of Shostakovich's previously unrecorded orchestral accompanied song cycles, the *English Lyrics*, and the later *Songs to Poems of Marina Tsvetayeva* and the Swiss *Verbes by Michelangelo* in excellent Russian performances under Rudolf Barshai and the composer's son, Semyon. Listen to *Verbes* perhaps, but remarkably revealing. (HMV Melodica, SLS 5078 £6.25).

Stanley Sadie

It has not been a prolific year for Mozart operas, but what there has been is distinguished. There is the strong new Tito under Colin Davis, from Covent Garden and Philips; but I would give precedence over that to the Baranboim *Figaro* (EMI SLS 995 £12.45). Much, and understandably, criticised for its shortcomings in theatrical feeding, this performance is nevertheless one to treasure for its abundance of purely musical insights, which can be amply savoured at these spacious

tempos. Harper and Fischer-Dieskau as Count and Countess, Blagov and Evans as Susanna and Figaro, all add strength to what is certainly the most 'symphonic' *Figaro* to be had.

Among the more 'historical' sets that make up much of my reviewing in these columns, I have enjoyed several of the stylish re-creations on the Florilegium label from L'Oiseau-Lyre. One that seemed specially well done was the recent *Comical record* from the Academy of Ancient Music, but more important, for the music is of far greater stature, is the second release in the Dowland series (DSD10 £28.9 £7), where Anthony Rooley's Consort of Musicke prove

themselves surely the most professional and most sensitive of our early music groups in their deeply felt readings of the Second Book of Songs: there could be no happier way *semper dolens* perhaps, but of making the tears flow over the festive season.

Finally, a curiosity: Berwald's orchestral music, virtually complete (EMI SLS 5096 £12.45), from the RPO under Ulf Edlund. This is music full of ideas, often Mendelssohnian, sometimes Schumannesque, occasionally endearingly clumsy, the epithets that stand as titles to two of the symphonies, singular and capricious, aptly summarise a composer fuller of surprises than any Christmas stocking.

Richard Williams

In a year which has witnessed the overdue demolition of rock's dreisome self-improvers (those purveyors of O-level cosmology and inflated 'classical' borrowings), it is tempting to award the spoils to the shock troops. Indeed, beneath the blood and the bluster, the Sex Pistols have emerged as a band of compelling power, perhaps the equals of the early Rolling Stones.

For recordings of lasting value and musical significance, however, we must look to the Americans, and to New York, whence arrived debut albums from a pair of genuine thoroughbreds. The first was Television, whose *Marquee*

*Moon* (Elektra K52046, £3.48) supplied a perfect matrix for the haunting vision of Tom Verlaine. Laced with startlingly vivid images, his songs are held in subtle balance by baroque arrangements of great tension. On Television's heels came Talking Heads' 'the nagging intensity of David Byrne's voice on the 77' (Sire 6036, £3.50) is the vehicle for clever anthems of neurosis performed against a deceptively deadpan neo-funk backdrop. Neither band sacrifices content for style: both are strung as taut as a bow.

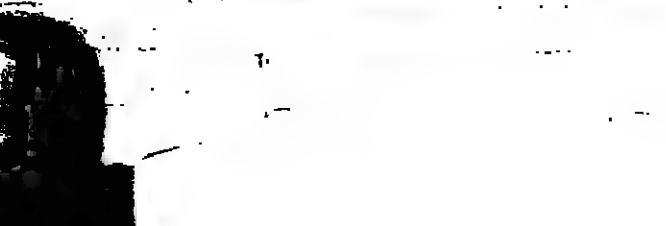
In jazz, a five-volume set titled *Wildflowers* (Douglas NBLP 7045-9 about £4.50 each) illuminates the activities of Gotham's younger musicians, with a pleasant variety of approaches: a sardonic account of 'Over the Rainbow' rules

up against post-Webern adventures; a jazz version of 'systems' minimalist sits happily next to a good old blues. With 60 musicians represented there are prohibitions, but the overall intensity is remarkable, and optimism for the music's future must be the result.

To highlight these is to ignore achievements in other related fields: the continuing maturity of Steely Dan's *Aja* (ABC S225), the glacial disco landscapes of Kraftwerk's *Trans-Europe Express* (Capitol E-ST 11693), Cecil Taylor's monomaniacally *Eye Dark to Themselves* (Enja 2084), Booker T and the MG's excellent *Universal Language* (A&M K53057), and the late John Coltrane's magnificent *Afro-Blue Impressions* (Pablo 2620 101).

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## THE ARTS

## John Woodvine making contact

When Trevor Nunn's production of *The Alchemist* transfers to the Aldwych on December 14 from Stratford's Other Place, the title role will again be played by John Woodvine at the head of an RSC company which also includes Ian McKellen and Susan Dury. For Woodvine, there have now been two busy years with the RSC: he's also to be found as Rangano in the still-sold-out *Warehouse Macbeth* and as Dr Finch in the musical *Comedy of Errors* and he is already in rehearsal for the Judi Dench-Beryl Reid *Way of the World* which opens at the Aldwych in January. Before the company moves back to his Newcastle birthplace for another six-week season at the end of the winter.

Though now a familiar television face from *Boys* as Detective Inspector Witty in *Z-Cars* and Inspector Kingdom in *New Scotland Yard*, Woodvine in fact started out as a classical actor with the Michael Benthall Old Vic. The son of a seagoing stoker he was, born 48 years ago on Tyne-side.

"God knows why I decided to be an actor: there was none of it in the family and my two brothers, 'cousins' haven't chosen it for a living. But in the Depression my father moved south and I went to Lord Williams' Grammar School in Thame and there it all seemed to start. Then I did my National Service and after that, because I thought I'd never make a living as an actor, I did what the family said and took a secure job as a clerk in the office of a wool merchant. Only after three years the merchant went bankrupt and all the security I'd been promised was a myth, so I decided the theatre couldn't be any worse than that and here I am."

Woodvine went first to RADA in 1952.

"A bad year that. Sir Kenneth Barnes was still ostensibly the principal but effectively he'd been dead for years, and by the time they brought the new regime in, a year or two later I was already out and doing the classics in Rep. I was trained by the old guard, which is why I missed out on the *Flower of Toots* revolution. While they were changing the face of modern acting I was out doing *Caravaggio* on one-night stands round army camps, and very lost was I got too, doing delicate stuff like that for the Pioneer Corps."

From there, however, Woodvine got luckier.

"Benthall took me into the Old Vic in 1954 and gave me some quite good work including *The Merchant of Venice*. I was a bit of a star there, but although it was a very secure two-year job for me, I found it frustrating. They say acting is learnt by watching other people play the parts you want: I don't believe it. The essence of acting is doing it, whether for a camera or an audience; that's why an out-of-work actor is so hopeless compared with an out-of-work painter who can still go on to improve himself. I think if someone lets him on the stage."

Not that he has often been off it. "In 23 years of acting the longest spell I've ever had out of work was 10 weeks, but I'm not qualified to be an actor. I'm always sure that this

production, especially as it leaves the poem intact."

Based on Brian Stone's Penguin translation, Peter Stevens' text contains little dialogue. Most of the words are spoken by Warren Clarke's clown/Alchemist storyteller, whose alliterative narrative is acted by the rest of the company. By means of the show preserves such treasures as the description of Gawain's journey from Camelot to the Wirral, and the account of the changing seasons.

For spectators too young to read the text, there are enough signposts to clarify the visual action.

The show opens with displays of dance and tumbling, defined as the "jousting and jollity" of Arthur's court. With that established, it proceeds to take full advantage of conventionalized staging, translating Gawain's quest into a series of circus turns. He scales mountains of netting, fights a dragon on a raised platform, and is carried off to a perilous destination along the high wire.

Visually the whole show is built around the single motif of the wooden staff, which represents the sword in combat and dance, and dominates Paul Banister's set as the impenetrable palladium.

Unlike the run of chivalrous adventures, *Gawain* also has an integrated element of the grotesque of courtly love temptation in the final tryst at the Green Chapel. The poem must have struck countless readers as a natural dramatic material, and it is good to have this assumption thoroughly proved in Michael Bogdanov's

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time they're going to find me out. Luckily, the subsidised companies seem to be as susceptible to television fame as the commercial managements, and all through *Z-Cars* I stayed in stage work so that I never got myself typecast as a telecop and nothing more.

"If, like me, you're inhibited, then acting is a way of making contact, of expressing yourself while still keeping people at a distance. For years I went around being immensely popular, but I think I've been more relaxed, though I've still not immediately recognisable as any particular type of actor, which means I'm never at the top of any casting director's list."

Throughout this year and last, Woodvine has been happily and gainfully employed by the RSC in Stratford and London, though he's not sure how much longer it can last.

"Financially, I'm not sure I could afford another Stratford season: I've a wife and two daughters at home in Shepherd's Bush, and being at Stratford means keeping two homes going and an awful lot of travelling for the Pioneer Corps. Professionally the life at Stratford is better: you're in a community of actors who stay together because there's nothing else to do, whereas in London after the show it's the eleven-thirty tube home. But while I was at Stratford I had to keep getting on the 7.30 train in the morning to get to London and do a commercial voiceover, pay the rent before getting back on the train for a madcap, and I don't understand how actors with families manage to live on an RSC salary unless they have a very good second job. I was a bit of a star there, but although it was a very secure two-year job for me, I found it frustrating. They say acting is learnt by watching other people play the parts you want: I don't believe it. The essence of acting is doing it, whether for a camera or an audience; that's why an out-of-work actor is so hopeless compared with an out-of-work painter who can still go on to improve himself. I think if someone lets him on the stage."

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bought a house to be near the TV centre while I was doing *Z-Cars*, only to find six years since I've only worked there twice.

"Mistakes? One or two. I turned down the chance to be in the first season at Chichester, not knowing that the company was to form the basis of the National Theatre. Also I think I spent too long being using my own agent and my own personality, but in those days it didn't seem so fashionable to be a Geordie. But I'm not good at looking back over my career: I still think of myself as 'promising' and there's still a lot I want to do."

"I'd also like to do another one-man show. I did Alex Glasgow's about Joe Wilson [the Tyne-side musician who died in 1968] and I think I did a good job. I've never in fact made a lot of money, and I don't think I'm the kind of actor who can do a lot more of it in the end, though, it all depends what they offer you and if you can afford to do it."

"I did a year with the Actors' Company but that was entirely paid for by the New Scotland Yard money and lately I've not had a TV series. I've never in fact made a lot of money, and I don't think I'm the kind of actor who can do a lot more of it in the end, though, it all depends what they offer you and if you can afford to do it."

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"Well, it was the first real farce, and you got the situation on stage that you got the situation of a house with a limited number of rooms and a huge number of doors through which the plot jangled the wrong people. It's a difficult job, but very complicated, which is why it is usually cut heavily and done as a joke show. The way Gubler did it, the Vic last time round. We're proud of it, but it's also a bit of a joke."

Sheridan Morley

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I have never been much of a one for book learning myself. Ever since, in my classics master's ill-disguised astonishment, I crept through Latin and Greek A levels, I have held the view that the works of Sophocles and Herodotus, excellent as they undoubtedly were, are not the sort of thing to put a chap in the right mood for the necessary eight hours of undisturbed slumber.

Now, to be frank, have I ever thought very much of the idea of a cruising holiday. The prospect of being cooped up for days on end with a bunch of perfect strangers, the main diversion being the bar, bingo and the Captain's Gala Fancy Dress Dinner and Dance, would normally be enough to persuade me to end it all by diving off the stern on the first evening.

My wife holding similar views, it was with some trepidation that we embarked upon the good ship *Orpheus* after a languorous afternoon in Venice. The sun was shining, the waves were lapping, the Doge's Palace, for all we knew, may never have lost its lustre. But ahead lay stark reality, lectures, no less, on Greek and Roman history and mythology, and daily, or even twice daily, condensed tours of museums and other ruins. Not a race-course or a discotheque within sight.

The next morning appeared to confirm our worst fears. We spent most of the morning driving round the dusty streets of Ravenna and becoming increasingly thirsty. Even the enthusiasm of Canon Gay Pentecost, one of the guest lecturers and an admirable fellow in every way, for the local mosaics could hardly compensate for the general dreariness of the town. There was also, a shrill-voiced American lady who seemed to have a peculiar obsession with St Martin and kept making noises in a little book; fortunately, we saw and heard less of her as the voyage progressed.

But Swans have not been ferrying people around Greece for nearly a quarter of a century without learning a thing or two. The next morning the world changed decisively for the better as we found ourselves wandering around a tiny and enchanting island called Korcu. All ideas of regimentation had vanished. We were free to enjoy ourselves, and suddenly all of us seemed to know that we were going to.

That evening, we spent in Dubrovnik. The old city is an unmitigated delight. The buildings are impeccably preserved, the streets spotless, the restaurants cosy and inviting, and the people as smiling and friendly as you will find anywhere. Meandering through the narrow, hilly streets, we were pressed by a local resident to come into his garden for a chat and to inspect the

view: it is hard to imagine an Englishman extending similar hospitality to two complete strangers.

Korcu, by contrast, was no more than all right and, on the evidence of an overland drive to a distant beach, overrated. The local guide implied that the villagers in the interior spent much of their time avoiding snakes. Creta, too, was a disappointment, or at least the small area that we had time to see. Knossos was hopelessly overcrowded, and Sir Arthur Evans's attempts to recreate the splendour of his momentous discoveries are not to everyone's taste. Rhodes was both beautiful and awful, enlivened by the package tourist trade, its streets festooned with overpriced souvenirs and the inescapable Theodorakis

music booming from every other shop doorway.

In between there were two mountain climbs. The first was at Delphi, a pilgrimage which I had made once before and which was as awe-inspiring as ever. The second was the ascent of the volcanic crater of Santorini where others, more wisely perhaps, elected to travel by mule. Walking was made hazardous by a slippery, stinking carpet of manure which covered the steps, and by the descending droves of strident animals which did their best to push me over the edge. There was nothing to see at the top; drenched in sweat, we headed for the nearest crate of lager. The island's savage and sinister contours make their greatest visual impact at sea level.

Which partner was responsible for this appalling defeat? East, because he omitted to follow to the ♠K with the ♠Q. West would then have switched to his singleton and whenever he was on lead, he would have won his ♠A and obtained the ruff on ♠A. But he was principally relying for the penalty trick. As I have always claimed, you win by your opponents' mistakes.

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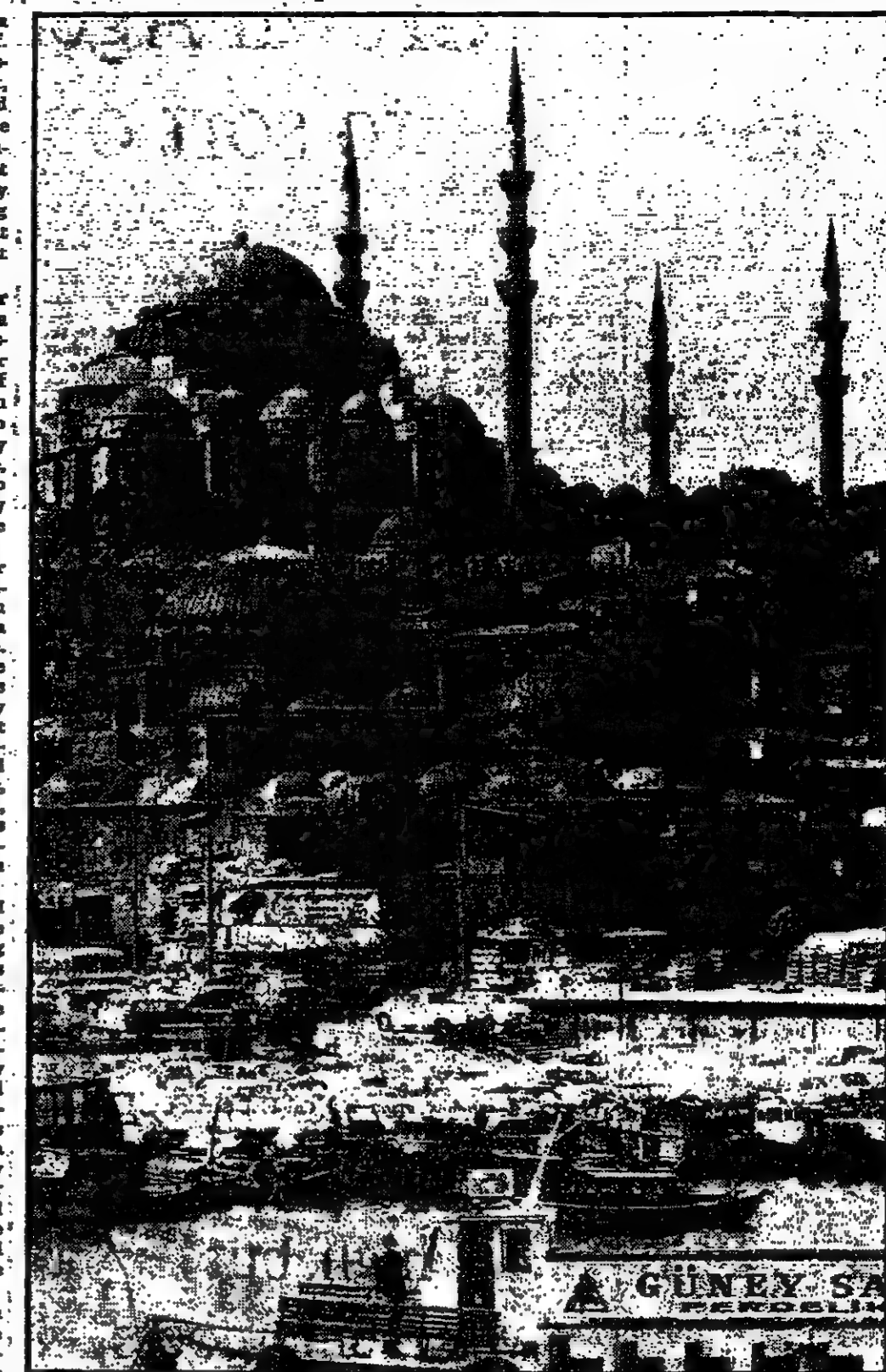
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The Süleymaniye Mosque in "shabby" Istanbul

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## Travel

## Swanning around the Adriatic

memorable fish meals of all time, the walk up Parnassos to the monastery of St John; the overpowering splendour of Ephesus; Troy, with its comic reproduction of wooden horse standing sentinel over the windy plains; and the grimy mosques and smelly streets of Istanbul, surely the shabbiest and most down-at-heel of the world's great historic cities, but where the incredible Topkapı museum, the treasure house of the Sultans, makes up for almost anything.

Athens was almost too hot to be enjoyed or appreciated, and it is worth here mentioning that those allergic to high temperatures should not choose, as we did, to travel in June. At sea it is cooler, and most of the ship is air-conditioned, but inspecting unshaded archaeological sites in the heat of the midday sun can be something of an ordeal; it was surprising that the older passengers lasted so well.

But then, of course



## Where does Britain stand in the fight for human rights?

The legendary editor of a North American newspaper need constantly remind his subscribers that their stories are prepared for the newspaper. What he wanted to convey in his editorial, and which, English was that story should be understandable to the newspaper's readers. He meant no reflection on the millions of Kansas City or anywhere else.

Today, the human rights issue has both benefited and suffered from similar treatment: most people have heard of the issue but few understand its subtleties.

Human Rights Day today will be marked with the presentation to Amnesty International's chairman, Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, of the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of the organization's contributions to the lessening of world tensions.

For the first time there is official world recognition that human rights and world peace are linked.

Just two days after the presentation of the peace prize, *The Times* is due to publish the latest in its series of articles on prisoners of conscience which is now approaching the century mark.

Only a few years ago all this would have been unthinkable. And though concern for human rights is not new—when President Carter was in the White House, he was locked in the struggle for human rights—as one former Latin American leader puts it—it is now, for better or worse, a considerable factor in international power politics.

The former politician shows no reticence when he speaks of President Carter, and even he would not deny that the new American stress on human rights issues is a step forward. But he, like many human rights campaigners, is apprehensive about the final outcome.

### The decision to cancel a grant

In Britain, the debate has been becoming less clear since the controversial decision to cancel a £15m grant to the Bolivian mining industry. Human rights activists and the National Union of Mineworkers (*The Times*, Nov 22) felt that granting the money would be interpreted as a "reward" to the La Paz government for its efforts to destroy the miners' trade union organization.

Whitehall saw it as an opportunity to benefit not only the mine workers, by making better equipment available to them, but also the Bolivian industry by giving it some badly-needed foreign orders.

Just as the United States is approaching the second centenary of its human rights policy with Latin America in which hard choices have to be made, so Britain will soon have to decide how far the human rights policy should go. And the decision which will give at least a clue in that direction could be the present plans to cancel £350,000 worth of second-hand military equipment to El Salvador, a country which has an appalling record of abuse of

human rights and in which there is a campaign against the Catholic Church, as a communist trojan horse, which is hysterical even by Latin American standards.

*The Times* prisoner of conscience column has sought to approach the issue from the humanitarian angle and to communicate to the reader the extent to which the citizens of other countries suffer curtailment of their most elementary rights. As Amnesty International's latest report shows human rights are violated in the majority of the countries of the world, and two-thirds of the countries in which abuses are reported in the organization's annual compendium are members of the United Nations.

### The speed at which the world hears

Since the column was started in March, 1976, the plight of prisoners in countries as diverse as China and Argentina have been chronicled and the writer has tried to show that human rights are indivisible—that it is just as important to investigate and report on the improvement of a Bolivian peasant seeking land reform as it is to write about a highly educated and sophisticated Soviet Jew.

Efforts have been made not just to write about abuses in those countries in which information is easily available. It is estimated that the arrest of Soviet dissidents is now communicated to London within a space of three hours or so. In contrast, information on political prisoners in Cambodia, perhaps the worst offender of human rights in the world, is practically unobtainable.

Candidates for the prisoners of conscience column from the United States, Britain and France have been investigated, but in all cases were released before the time came for publication.

During the series so far, it is known that 11 prisoners have been released following an article in the newspaper. It is debatable, of course, how much influence an individual article has on any particular release, but in the case of the series it is known to have been direct. In other cases publication has been withheld when it became known that an article would be counter-productive.

Officially the reaction of governments to the series, with one exception, has been to ignore it. On the ground, the story has been different and photocopies of articles have been widely circulated in at least one country. Reader reaction has been almost universally positive.

But it must be remembered that the world's largest democracy, India, from the start of the state of emergency, went within months from a fully-fledged Western democracy to something approaching a police state with at least 40,000 political prisoners.

The series, meanwhile, is being emulated by other newspapers in the United States, Scandinavia and Europe.

David Watts

## Crown Agents: the man to sort out the mess

George Hutchinson



Mr. John Cuckney

In the torrent of words to which the scandal of the Crown Agents has given rise, one person has been largely, if not entirely, overlooked. Mr. John Cuckney is hardly mentioned, and remains unknown to the wider public. Yet his insight and knowledge will be of the first importance in the forthcoming inquiry, as they were to the Pay Committee's investigation.

Not that Mr. Cuckney was present at No 4 Millbank when the Agents were engaged in their deplorable transactions. He was, in effect, "defunct" there as chairman in 1974 to sort out the mess—an unpleasant and arduous commission.

John Cuckney, now in his early fifties, is a former—and very accomplished—baker (he was a director of Lazzards) who in recent years has distinguished himself in the public service, not always in appointments that could be called congenial. Seven years ago he was dispatched to Liverpool to rescue the failing Mersey Docks and Harbour Board—again, a delicate and trying assignment. More agreeably, he subsequently directed the Property Services Agency at the Department of the Environment.

He might be described as the embodiment of intellect and candour allied to much personal charm. In addition to his responsible posts, he has been a member of the Crown Agents, he has lately become chairman of the Port of London Authority. You will be hearing more of Mr. Cuckney.

Meanwhile he welcomes the thoroughgoing public inquiry to which Mr. Callaghan has agreed under pressure from the House of Commons. From his

own study of the Agents' record he should be able to illuminate some of the darker aspects. He will certainly be an elegant witness—elegant in appearance, elegant in expression, and uncommonly lucid into the bargain.

While it seems right to set up a Tribunal, the proceedings will no doubt be distasteful, especially between 1970 and 1974. Vast embezzlement, not only for officialdom as represented both in Whitehall and in the Bank of England, but for several former ministers who failed to exercise their authority when warned of the danger. One of them, Mr. Richard Wood, acknowledged a degree of responsibility in Monday's debate—and he did so generously, even handsomely. Mr. Wood was not alone, however; there were others too.

This cannot be an "easy" or painless inquiry; but it may be a beneficial one in terms of future safeguards.

Life is full of surprises, as they say. In a note a few weeks ago, I was regretting—and with good reason—the designations applied to Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, and Princess Alexandra, the Ben Mrs. Angus Ogilvy, I expected, and have received some response. But I never thought to see the day when the editor of *Debut* would be found defending this deplorable usage, as he did in a subsequent letter to *The Times*. I repeat: the daughter of a duke, royal or otherwise, is more properly called Lady So-and-so, never Mrs.

Then I heard from an insider that the Crown Agents' group of Labour MPs, Mr. John Lee was formerly in the Colonial Service and is a be-

liever. He had already written to *The Times* about the lack of a title for Princess Anne's baby son. He had this to say to me: "Although a Tribune, particularly in economic and social matters, I am certainly not insensitive to the fact that the Monarchy in its present form has a great appeal to a large number of people, including many Labour voters, and as a constitutionalist I object strongly to the hole-in-the-corner way in which the character of the Monarchy is being changed without public debate or Parliamentary sanction."

I suspect that this same

attitude is responsible for the decision not to confer a Dukedom on the Earlson as is responsible for the incorrect designation of Princess Anne (and of Princess Alexandra), namely a misguided, spurious egalitarian notion in the Sovereign's advisers; whereas real egalitarianism is concerned with massive shifts in wealth from rich to poor for which, amongst other things, I for one am in politics.

"I also suspect for the same reason that the decision is intended to indicate (tacitly so) as to minimize the possibility of public comment and criticism that no more Royal Peacocks are ever going to be created; for example when Prince Andrew and Prince Edward come of age; or in the event of Prince Michael of Kent getting married."

"I do not reserve my own criticism of the Monarchy, which I have expressed on the floor of the House: its residence over its wealth; and the apparent failure of the Monarchy, when faced with the major constitutional change embodied in Her Majesty's Common Market application in 1971, to act as her grandfather had done in a comparable situation in 1910—by obliging the Government to call a decision on the issue. The shabby treatment of the bereaved Duchess of Windsor on her visit here in 1972 is another. Moreover I have said there is a case for a Republic. Nevertheless whilst we have a Monarchy for good or ill, let us have it in grand style."

Many who are otherwise far removed from Mr. Lee will readily endorse his final sentiment.

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## But first get your large size stamps

"The 10p Loaf Is Here" said the International Stores advertisement in letters more than an inch high. Lower down it showed the 10p tin of baked beans and the 12p half-pound of butter. The key to it all lay much lower still, in letters barely an eighth of an inch high which said: "From now on housewives will be able to pay amazing prices like these by using their Green Shield stamps as cash at International."

It is no use expecting to buy the 10p loaf with mere 10p coins. You also need a special folder with 32 of the large Green Shield stamps, each of which is equivalent to 10 of the small ones. To get those 32 stamps at International you will have to spend £4, as long as you buy them on the one day of the week that is designated a double stamp day. Otherwise you will have to spend £8.

The offers look haphazard: 14½p for a kilogram of granulated sugar, and 12½p for a quarter-pound of PG Tips tea. They have two common themes, however. First, they are all basic, mass-market products. Secondly, and this was not stated in the advertisement, the reduction is the same in each case. The 10p tin of beans would cost 13½p without the stamps and the 14½p kilogram of sugar 27½p.

The booklet of Green Shield stamps is worth 13p when used on one of the small number of offers chosen by International Stores and other supermarket companies in the scheme. Super Discount is Green Shield's answer to its rejection by Tesco, formerly its main grocery outlet.

It seems an extremely long-winded way of saving money, especially at International

Stores, which has made a virtue of simplicity and cheapness by selling food under labels with a brief stark rubric in one colour and typeface without the customary pictures and design wizardry.

Mr. Michael Groves, joint managing director of International and a former Tesco man, defended the Green Shield discount scheme. He is keeping it simple labelling and containing it to goods with well-known national brand names. "What we are in fact starting to develop is a platform of choice," he said.

What International, numerically one of the largest supermarket groups in Britain, is also trying to do is to fight its competitors for a large share of the stagnant grocery market. Food retailing is now one of the most competitive sections of British commerce and further amalgamations are inevitable.

The super discount offer available in 600 International supermarkets will also apply to 14 out of 50 in the F.J. Wells group, International acquired the group just as it was itself absorbed by the British-American Tobacco group.

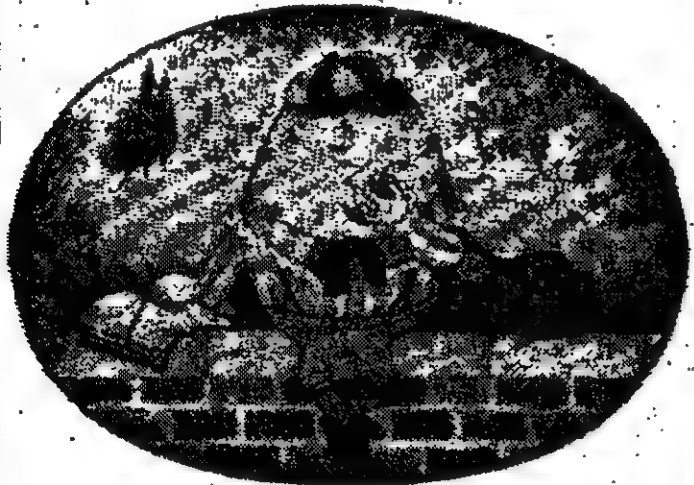
International has now stopped selling the 10p tin of beans. Anyone who wants that will have to go to Budgen, the second largest group in the discount scheme. It is also operating in several regional groups, and may reach 1,000 shops early next year.

Its advantage for Green Shield is that it preserves a large presence in the retail market even at the expense of circumventing its traditional redemption for "pitts", which will continue alongside the discount scheme.

The supermarkets are using it for the simple brutal reason that every customer attracted by the 10p loaf or the 10p beans is one customer less in a rival shop. And as Mr. Groves pointed out, it takes no great effort to spend £8 for stamps before Christmas. "If you buy a bottle of gin and a bottle of whisky you automatically have enough," he said.

Hugh Clayton

## Biggles is flying high, but who remembers Mrs Munch?



Mary Whitehouse contrasts the "sheer delight" of Nicola Bayley's Nursery Rhymes with the "depressing, damp and rather nasty" pictures in Raymond Briggs' *Fungus the Bogymon*.

Like so many other glamorous purveyors of culture the BBC's book programme since Christmas has been a time of the year when it may stoop to notice children's books. Ever questing for new ways to present the confounded things the producer has this year hit on the party idea of asking a hundred distinguished people to say what is, or was, their favourite and their least favourite children's book.

Tomorrow on BBC 2 at 4.20 pm a selection of the 43 answers received will be discussed. But by no means all the replies will be dealt with and the producer of the Book Programme has, with permission of the correspondents—allowed us to peruse the correspondence and draw some conclusions.

The letter of invitation did not confine correspondents specifically to childhood recollections and the body of replies therefore included comments on fairly recent books as well as on vanished delights like *A Tall Ship* by Barthelme—which Simon Raven recalled as having "strong narrative" and "lovely characterisation" with whom one could identify oneself. It was a pleasure therefore to discover that John Cheese read Arnold Lobel's "Frog and Toad" stories to his daughter, even when she was fast asleep; and that K. M. Peyton (who as a child had Jonathon Canham's *A Pony for Jean* permanently on loan from the public library) was willing to supply a detailed paragraph

in praise of the "privileged, subtle" children in Arnold Lobel's *The Piglet's Progress*, "a family" "upbeat" book, "old-fashioned in some ways" but capable of arousing affection.

Among childhood favourites, though, there was a very marked preponderance of what might now be seen as "classic" titles. Indeed, the biggest surprise in the entire poll was the consensus shown for one of the most ancient books to which children have attached themselves: *The Piglet's Progress*. One author recalled the adventures and the kindly detailed portraits by Frederick Barnard for the Dandelion edition; Richard Adams apparently wrote in reply of it as his favourite book when he was nine years old; and A. J. P. Taylor still ranks it high. "When young I liked the story, when old I like the style."

Many of the other classic choices were predictable enough, the most frequently recurring being one or other of the Alice books, or of the *Tommy* books. Peter Kingsley Amis (who thought that nobody with a name like that could be any good) felt she was "forced on helpless impressionable children by adults who have forgotten what life like to be a child." In opinion that got some support from Lord Olivier—sounds like that his own children were "pretty strong in the past on Enid Blyton, and I am afraid that all my efforts to outbri-

them with Beatrix Potter have been of no avail."

Enid Blyton, in fact, came in for less praise and less veneration in the poll than might be expected for one regarded by many with pleasure, and few people spending any time on needlessly destructive remarks. Hunter Davies it was "pre-eminently a good book" and Richard Adams himself figures as a proponent for Walter de la Mare's *The Three Ravens* which, with Ballantyne's *Gorilla Hunters*, counts as worst for Colli Wilton: "In fact," he says with crushing disdain, "it strikes me that de la Mare and Ballantyne are certainly among the most overrated of all children's writers—both appallingly led by the pet of unreadable parents." The second "simply an ignoramus" and the first "having no particular talent of any kind." (I must say I agree with him about unreadable Ballantyne, but *The Three Ravens* is a different matter—a weird book, whose language and landscape have a richness beyond anything found elsewhere in children's literature.)

It is presumably to be expected that Hans Christian Andersen figured high among the much-disliked authors, and also high on the list of names constantly spelt wrong. He is an author who perhaps has to be read by children at a very precise moment of readiness, and who has, moreover, suffered much from incompetent

translations and from sentimental illustrations, so that he is not really as "new" as Simon Raven makes out. It is also not surprising to find a bad press for the Teutonic Grimms and for Dr. Heinrich Hoffmann, certainly the Grimsby "popular" feeders; Catherine Cookson retains "an undying gratitude for the woman in the house upstairs who brought me Grimms' Fairy Tales"; but the forces were ranged there in one against the other.

Auberon Waugh, who was the one, didn't start with it was a favourite, but he can have the satisfaction that no less a judge of picture books than Maurice Sendak has said that it is "graphically one of the most beautiful books in the world." The other big surprise of the survey was the line-up against Ransome. As one who read *We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea* oblivious of bombs falling on streets near by, I was startled by the vehemence of his detractors: "that prissy little Cooper, 'rushing around going camping and doing awful boring things like sailing'"; "totally unreadable" said John Braine; mildly disliked (said Simon Raven); and Michael Holroyd, after a jolly Cooperish assault on "all that fiddling with ropes and jumping about on fore-decks" added, more in sorrow than in anger, "we were not like that where I lived in Berkshire."

After all, it's easy enough to write off "Tommy" and "Alice" books as Bambi Tennant did, for their "silly assumptions" and their "boring and banal" picture of daily life—who would wish to oppose such a view with any vehemence? But there was a different voltage in

the attacks and defence of "major" works.

Trevor Nunn, for instance, could write about *Waterhouse* for him as an adult. "It's the best children's book I have ever read... a genuine lesson in lost innocence," while Hunter Davies it was "pre-eminently a good book" and Richard Adams himself figures as a proponent for Walter de la Mare's *The Three Ravens* which, with Ballantyne's *Gorilla Hunters*, counts as worst for Colli Wilton: "In fact," he says with crushing disdain, "it strikes me that de la Mare and Ballantyne are certainly among the most overrated of all children's writers—both appallingly led by the pet of unreadable parents." The second "simply an ignoramus" and the first "having no particular talent of any kind." (I must say I agree with him about unreadable Ballantyne, but *The Three Ravens* is a different matter—a weird book, whose language and landscape have a richness beyond anything found elsewhere in children's literature.)

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Although no one at all anxious to demand an exact measure to Ransome there was enough diversity in the list as a whole to knock the props from under any theory that children only enjoy or remember the "silly" "popular" writers. Stevenson and Kipling and Dickson (or at least *David Copperfield*) gained as widespread an affection as the "William" books or the "Biggles" books—of which Simon Raven movingly said "I'm told these books are now labelled 'fascist' by a certain kind of school-teacher who whisked off the shelves in the early days of the war, and who replaced by stories tailored in accordance with the recommendations and fads of the Equal Opportunities Commission. No wonder readers are unpopular with children these days."

I don't think he need worry too much though, for Biggles Defies the Moralists — along with William and the much derided *Stalky & Co.* But what ever happened, I wonder, to the really oddball favourites? Gerald Bullett's *Remember Mrs Munch*, say, or H. L. Estrange's *Malone's Nipping Bear*, or *The Unlucky Family* by Mrs Henry de la Pasture, published in 1907? And how many readers can tell Dr Desmond Morris who wrote *The One-eyed Griffin*?

Brian Alderson  
Children's Books Editor

## How eight artists got the official seal of approval

The paper was said to be on its way to a printers and there it was to be turned into an original lithograph signed by the artist in a limited edition as advertised in glossy magazines everywhere. The blank sheets of paper, with their signatures, were worth a small fortune.

Whether or not the story is true matters less than the fact that it gained so much credence. Over the past decade limited editions of lithographs have become less and less limited in so many cases as to be a joke.

About two years ago the inevitable happened. Good led to the publication of almost unlimited editions. There were

forgeries. There were secret printings of second editions. Sometimes a colour would be changed or the type of paper changed to make a picture technically different. The market was flooded.

The exhibition at the Royal Academy which aims to turn the tide and win back public confidence in the art of lithography is a round but energetic art editor of Corbis descendant, M. Alain Agostini. He collected a team of eight artists together and commissioned them to do one lithograph in a limited edition of 125 each. Then he went round

to the courts and asked for the help of a huiusler, a legal official.

The huiusler was somewhat surprised at the task he was asked to perform but, being apparently a man of some responsibility, he set to work with a will. He was presented with the pile of 1,000 lithographs, and on the back of each one he nearly stamped his official seal in the corner, then signed it.

The signature is quite neat on the lithographs near the top of the pile, but for those near the end it has become little more than an artistic squiggle of its own. Nevertheless, he finished the task, giving a legal guarantee that the lithograph was the genuine article.

At the Atelier Gourdon they still use a 150-year-old press with a foot treadle and steel capstan to run off proofs squeezed flat by the roller on to a real hunk of printer's stone. One of the craftsmen worked with Picasso, and they all have the sort of dedication to their craft that makes artists queue up to have their work printed there.

One of the Agostini group of eight is Vincent Haddesty, a Yorkshireman, horse fanatic, native painter and amateur lithographer.

He is pleased that *Pau* has been chosen for staging this first exhibition of legally

approved lithographs because of the town's British connections. The Duke of Wellington went hunting there, and there is still a local meet composed of very French members who ride with vevre and are known locally as *Les Anglais*.

Haddesty has drawn a special picture of the *Pau* hunt for the exhibition, full of horses, as are most of his paintings. But it is the success or failure of the lithographs to which the print artists are looking anxiously. If it succeeds then the legal examination to become a huiusler must have to include a paper on art appreciation.

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## THE DEFENCE OF EUROPE

Nato is now in better shape than it has been for some time, as this week's meeting in Brussels showed. There are still some very sore spots, such as the dispute between Greece and Turkey, but the broad purposes of the alliance are now being pursued with a relatively high degree of harmony and rationality. Grand gestures and sweeping new doctrines have taken second place to programmes of steady practical reforms over the short and the long term. Worries about critical insufficiencies and bungled planning are receding. There has already been some progress in what General Haig, the Supreme Commander of Nato, has called the three Rs—readiness, reinforcement and rationalization. Mr Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary, said on Wednesday that he was particularly encouraged by the response of the allies to the short-term initiatives agreed in May.

There are two main reasons for this growing confidence. First, an acceptable level of mutual comprehension between Moscow and Washington has been restored after the rough period at the beginning of the year, when the Russians were rattled by the opening gambits of the Carter Administration. Little has been achieved in the way of concrete agreements but the feeling that the two super powers might stumble into dangerous mistakes through simple lack of communication is no longer so acute. The underlying validity of détente is confirmed, even though its terms are far from fully agreed.

Secondly, members of the alliance seem to have established a broader consensus on the nature of the threat and what needs to be done to counter it. At one end of the scale it has been impossible to sustain the belief that détente would usher in a new era of rapid disarmament. Efforts must and will continue (new western proposals are on the way) but results will be slow coming, so there can be no lowering of military vigilance. At the other end of the scale the more alarmist predictions of a rapid swing of the balance of power against a crumbling and demoralized West have also proved exaggerated.

True, the Soviet build-up has continued relentlessly in all

fields, with new and better weapons of all types streaming continuously into eastern Europe. Last night's communiqué from Brussels rightly said that this casts a shadow over East-West relations. But so far the West has shown itself able to counter with sufficient improvements of its own. As Mr Brown said in Brussels: "The alliance really does have to pull up its socks (but) think we are now starting to do that." He cited the fact that allied anti-tank guided missiles will have increased from 47,000 at the end of 1976 to 193,000 at the end of 1978.

There are, however, some new and difficult challenges looming up that already require even closer cooperation between Europe and the United States. At stake in the long run is whether Europe or any of its members can sustain an independent nuclear deterrent. At the moment arms control is being discussed mainly on two separate levels. The Americans and the Russians discuss limits on strategic weapons while in Vienna the allies (without France) join in attempts to limit forces in central Europe. The distinction is becoming increasingly blurred, largely because of new weapons such as the Cruise missile, which can be either tactical or strategic, but also because of forward-based systems such as land-based and sea-based bombers which can attack the Soviet Union from Europe. The Americans are now considering including forward-based systems and "grey area" weapons in guidelines for future SALT agreements. Already there is a Soviet-American protocol envisaging "years" in which Cruise missiles with a range of more than 600 kilometres would not be deployed while versions with a range of more than 2,500 kilometres would not be developed.

Mr Brown rightly insists that this does not foreclose the possibility of Cruise missiles being deployed in Europe, or even of Europeans developing their own. Nor has the United States made any commitment not to transfer Cruise missile technology to its European allies. The whole question is still open. Equally accurately, however, he speaks of political and psychological pressures following from Soviet-American limitations on the missile. It would be politically as well as technically difficult for

Britain, for instance, to defy both super powers and try to develop its own Cruise missile which depends not only on a sophisticated guidance system but also on very accurate mapping by satellites. The problem requires careful debate.

At the moment it is not even certain that the Cruise missile would necessarily be the best means of providing Britain with a strategic nuclear deterrent when the present generation of submarine-based "missiles" becomes obsolete. Some experts argue that it is not as cheap as it is made out to be if all its launching and support systems are taken into account, as well as the numbers required if it is to have any chance of penetrating enemy defences. Others still regard it as a relatively cheap and flexible way of preserving just enough nuclear capability to make a potential aggressor or blackmailer hesitate before pressing the button.

What is important at the moment is that Soviet-American negotiations should not pre-empt decisions which deeply affect European interests and require European participation. This is not happening yet but it could happen in the future, particularly if Europeans are unsure what they want. They have good reason for being unsure. The strategic weapons now held by Britain and France are a legacy of decisions made in different circumstances. It is enough to argue that in strictly military terms they are not really effective and not worth the money. It would nevertheless be a big and risky step to give them up altogether and rely wholly on the super powers, especially at a time when more countries will be acquiring nuclear weapons. The interests of Europe, and the super powers will not necessarily be for ever and everywhere identical. A few old-fashioned nuclear weapons do not look impressive in computerized games but they carry a certain psychological weight and inject an element of uncertainty into the calculations of the super powers which could in certain circumstances be salutary. Decisions about their long-term future must be taken consciously and not left until they have been overtaken by events.

## A VICTORY THAT IS WORSE THAN DEFEAT

By persuading executives of Hitachi, the Japanese electrical and electronics company, that there is no place for them in Britain the home-based television manufacturing industry has won what it clearly considers to be a singular victory. If victory means deflecting the Government from its avowed policy of seeking to attract more foreign investment to the industry, despite the long-term consequences that such a deflection may have for British industry as a whole, then the manufacturers and their trade union partners are using the word well. But many will hope that this particular "victory" will prove to be singular only in the sense that it is a once-and-for-all happening, not to be repeated by this or any other manufacturing group bent upon its own sectional interests.

There are several disturbing aspects to the affair. About a year ago the Government, through its representatives in the Department of Industry, indicated that it would not oppose Hitachi's efforts to establish manufacturing facilities in the north of England, provided certain conditions were met. Negotiations were opened, and several important assurances were wrested from the Japanese. In essence, Hitachi agreed that it would obtain at least 40 per cent of the components it required from United Kingdom suppliers;

moreover, it would seek to export some 50 per cent of its output, and at the same time it would reduce the importation of its sets from Japan as its own English-based operation got under way.

It would be wrong to say that the Government has now gone back on its word, because it is the Japanese themselves who have decided that the climate is not right for them to move into Britain. But Hitachi has clearly come to this decision because of the sustained and at times hysterical campaign waged against it by the industry's leaders. And the Government has done little publicly to rebuke this protectionist clamour.

Ironically, the industry's campaign has been led by its own sector working party, operating under the umbrella of the National Economic Development Office. It is to such bodies as this that the Government has been looking for statesman-like, practical advice on implementing the industrial strategy that is designed to restore the country to its former glory as a producer of goods for the world.

One can understand the anxiety of workers in the television manufacturing industry to preserve their jobs, particularly at a time when their companies are suffering from a severe recession, and overcapacity. It is natural, too, that the companies themselves should

seek to build barriers against so powerful a competitor, both technologically and economically, as Hitachi. But ultimately no British manufacturer, or indeed no manufacturer in any other part of the world, can survive against a producer who offers reliable products often at costs which are lower than those of its rivals. Its only hope is to put its own house in order as rapidly as possible.

On the day Hitachi said it would not go forward with its United Kingdom plans, it announced that it had formed links with General Electric to manufacture in the United States. That, too, has its own touch of irony. The American television manufacturing industry has been going through an intensely competitive period as its British counterpart, and its leaders have been lobbying their country's politicians with equal persistence. Yet the Hitachi-General Electric plan has not been stopped.

Hitachi's decision not to come to Britain may give the United Kingdom industry a chance to rationalize; if this opportunity is taken, some good may come of the affair. If it is not, the chances are that the industry's opposition will prove to have done no more than persuade other would-be foreign investors that Britain does not mean business after all.

### President Sadat's mission

From Mrs D. C. Casson  
Sir, What response from the church to the Egyptian-Israeli moves towards peace does Mr Andrew Cruickshank look for? (December 5). He asks for recognition from "Christianity through its churches". Here in an industrial and new housing area members of this Anglican church have been giving thanks to God for the news. In our public worship, in house groups and privately we have prayed for the situation and spiritual well-being of those involved. The contrast, however, between the peace talks and the situation at the time of Moses have been discussed with lively interest. We are ordinary Christians; we see God at work in the world, and we rejoice. What more can we do? Yours faithfully,  
HELEN CASSON,  
145 Hollybush Road,  
Luton,  
Bedfordshire.  
December 5.

### Fount of honour?

From Mr Peter Grant  
Sir, I have always suspected that The Times is the true fount of all honour, and in Oxford at least, this case seems proved. A few days ago, Philip Howard conferred on friend Mr Christopher Lush the title he so amply merits but which he so readily refused to collect. He then proceeded to confer on Professor James Barr the title of Episcopal confirmation (without

which, presumably, even a Scot could not write a representative theology).  
But how are these things arranged? I am sure if you were to mention (just casually) that I am a fellow of Balliol, they would not turn me away when I turned up for dinner. To whom does one apply? Yours faithfully,  
PETER W. GRANT,  
22 Hart Street,  
Oxford.  
December 5.

### Bermuda exorcisms

From Lord Thirlwall  
Sir, The recent debate on the Bermuda exorcisms recalls a 1970 case of a capital sentence in the Bahamas. After due process and in accordance with the advice of the Bahamas Committee on the Exercise of the Prerogative of Mercy, I stated that the law must take its course, but on appeal to the Crown the then Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary asked for reconsideration.  
The case remained under discussion for many weeks during which extensive further examination of all the circumstances confirmed the judgment of Bahamas Ministers and myself. But the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary made it clear that he was not prepared to allow the sentence to be carried out. After repeated stay proceedings, we eventually acquiesced on grounds

of humanity in order that the condemned prisoner should not be kept longer in suspense.  
The constitutional convention was not formally breached but in effect the Crech Jones Rules were set aside.  
I remain, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
THURLOW,  
House of Lords.  
December 8.

### In Regent's Park

From Lady Mallinson  
Sir, I should like to write in support of Mr Brown's letter, published on December 6, about the sculpture which has appeared in Regent's Park. Not only are there blue glass statues, but mini-Stonewall and mini-Stonewall have also appeared under groups of trees. Why must this lovely open Park—the whole point of its harmonious nature is that it is an open and almost rural place in the midst of the pleasing architecture of the Nash terraces—be cluttered up with man-made objects? If it is said that this sculpture, even if it is discordant, is there to "make us think", surely one might reply that to most people who habitually walk in Regent's Park this place, with its splendid wild fowl, trees, flowers and fields is a pleasant and uplifting refuge from oppressive thought.  
Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET MALLINSON,  
25 Wimpole Street, W1.  
December 6.

## Sir Harold Wilson and the BBC

From Sir Hugh Greene

Sir, I am sorry that Sir Harold Wilson's famous memory is at last beginning to fail him.

Today, The Times reports his "categorical denial" of a statement by Mr Mansell, the managing director of BBC external services, on a case of Government intervention in connection with a programme about a book by Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva.

The programme consisted in fact of extracts from her book, Letters to a Friend, which was due to be broadcast in the BBC Russian Service on May 25, 1967. George Brown, then Foreign Secretary, had been on a visit to Moscow since May 23. On the afternoon of May 25 I had a telephone call from the Foreign Office to say that an urgent message had been received from George Brown, asking that steps should be taken to see that the programme was dropped as otherwise Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, had threatened to cancel a very important meeting due to take place the next day. I replied that the programme could not be dropped as it had received a lot of publicity and press comment would be unavoidable.

A little later that afternoon another call reached me, this time from Number 10 Downing Street. I was told that the Prime Minister would be very grateful if the programme could be dropped "in the national interest". I finally agreed that the programme could not be dropped as it had received a lot of publicity and press comment would be unavoidable.

I do not quite understand why Sir Harold Wilson was in such a hurry to issue his "categorical denial". There seems to me to be nothing disgraceful to him in this incident or for that matter to me. It would be intolerably arrogant for any Director General of the BBC to regard himself in all circumstances as a better judge of national interest than the Prime Minister of the day, even though on the very rare occasions when something like this happens it is certainly his business to advise the Government.

When one remembers that all these exchanges were by telephone, it is going a bit far for Sir Harold Wilson to say that the search of Number 10 files "confirms" that this incident did not occur. However that may be, there is a full account of the whole affair in the BBC archives.

I cannot comment on Sir Harold Wilson's other "categorical denial" dealing with an interview about a book on President Amin at that was after my time.  
Yours faithfully,  
HUGH GREENE,  
10 Palace Gate, W8.  
December 8.

### Fuel disconnections

From the Secretary of the British Gas Corporation  
Sir, Mr Jeremy Mitchell of the National Consumer Council claims (Letter, December 8) that there is a "lack of consistency" in the code of practice on the payment of domestic electricity and gas bills will stand up to further investigation.

It is our experience that when we have the latest and most complete information is often not available. It is for this reason that we have asked the National Consumer Council to provide us with the names, addresses and full details of all cases concerning fuel disconnections which they have written to the Secretary of State.

The National Gas Consumers' Council, which is the statutory body for the gas industry, has been looking at the interests of gas consumers and has monitored the operation of the code of practice, as far as gas is concerned, regularly since January, 1977. They have informed us that there have been no cases of single instance where disconnection was incorrectly applied out of nearly 500 cases which they have investigated.

GORDON MAY,  
Secretary, British Gas Corporation,  
59 Bryanston Street,  
Marble Arch, W1.  
December 8.

### Aid for El Salvador

From Father Maurice Keane, SJ, and others  
Dear Sir, December 10 is Human Rights Day. As best the approach is now a more subtle one but no less pernicious. Mass arrests continue as also detention without trial, torture and the killing of those who courageously protest the injustices of their society. Church groups (including the country's 47 Jesuits) threatened with extermination in the middle of the summer; peasants, trade unionists, students have all become victims of the oppression.  
Such reports are common reading today and it is easy to turn a deaf ear to yet one more example. But it is especially painful and outrageous to learn at the same time that the Government is presently proposing to sell £850,000 of military equipment, including second-hand armoured vehicles, to the Salvadoran Government.  
The manufacture and sale of arms remains always a highly questionable enterprise. In the present case it cannot but be immoral. Since March of this year US military aid to El Salvador has been suspended on grounds of human rights. It would seem urgent that Britain should support this initiative and cancel the sale immediately.  
Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE KEANE, SJ,  
BRIAN CONWAY, SJ,  
ROBERT MURRAY, SJ,  
JOSEPH LAISHLEY, SJ,  
20 Phoenix Road, NW1.  
December 8.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Broadcast attack on National Front

From Mr Humphry Berkeley

Sir, I disagree with your opinion, which was expressed in a leading article today (December 9), that the Labour Party was wrong to make a head-on attack on the National Front in its latest party political broadcast.

I spent almost every evening during the GLC elections canvassing for the Labour candidate for North Hackney, and Stoke Newington, in the spring of this year. The National Front fought that election on a programme of deadly simplicity. It was a combination of socialist measures and racial hatred. Such a programme brought Hitler to power in Germany in 1933. The National Front propaganda in the GLC elections was aimed at the working class and the target was hit with unerring accuracy.

I came across over 40 people during the campaign who told me that they intended to vote for the National Front candidate. All but four of them had voted Labour in October, 1974; none had voted Conservative. The Labour, Liberal and Communist candidates denounced the propaganda of the National Front (which stated that there were six million coloured people in Britain, instead of the true figure of two million); the Conservative candidate declined to do so.

The National Front programme for London involved the removal of people from Britain (even those who were born here), and the removal of coloured people from council house waiting lists and from GLC schools, as well as the removal of coloured children from the education of coloured children in the presumably transitory period between now and their "repatriation".

It is necessary for all of us to recognize that the only class is the human race, and to proclaim our belief now, because tomorrow will be too late.  
Like you, I deplore the fact that people were interviewed without knowing that they were to appear in a party political broadcast. This is quite inexcusable in any circumstances, and should be as vigorously condemned as the racism contained in the speech of a public figure who was under the impression that he was speaking at a private dinner.

I have for some time felt that "party political broadcasts" should be abolished. While they exist, however, you are quite right in saying that the National Front should be able, through a chosen spokesman

and by means of a television interview, to reply to allegations which they believe to be unfair.

Yours faithfully,  
HUMPHRY BERKELEY,  
Three Pages Yard,  
Chiswick, W4.  
December 9.

From Mr S. N. Abbasi

Sir, The party political broadcast on behalf of the Labour Party was remarkable not in its use of propaganda but in the implicit acceptance of the National Front as a major political force.

Politics allows the use of all forms of propaganda; only in England do we retain the sense of "fair play". However, the gross violation of this tradition by the National Front, in its use of lucid, emotive propaganda was not, until the Labour Party programme checked with an assertive definition.

By paying a mere lip-service to the National Front, the established parties have been guilty of allowing the Front to grow: they have done no more to blame but themselves for the increasing membership and political power exerted by the Front. At long last, a major political party has fought back at the National Front using the simple technique of highlighting the Front's tactics, not in a rhetorical, padded fashion but in a simple and therefore, direct fashion.

The National Front has always operated on a political level below that of the established parties: at last one of these established parties has decided to counter the Front at the Front level of politics and that is where the National Front will be defeated.

Yours faithfully,  
SAULAT ABBASI,  
31 Cornman Gardens,  
Edgware,  
Middlesex.  
December 7.

From Mr Peter Wood

Sir, I am at a loss to understand the furor at the recent Labour Party political broadcast.

I am not a supporter of the Labour Party, but I am a Jew. And from this standpoint I would like to express the opinion that what the broadcast said with relation to the National Front should have been said by responsible politicians in this country several years ago.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WOOD,  
7 Bolton Road,  
St Johns Wood, NW8.  
December 9.

### Safeguarding the otter

From Sir Christopher Lever

Sir, It is not, I believe, generally realized just how endangered the otter is becoming. Whilst the otter is protected it is likely to be not enough to save it from extinction; it must have national protection.

It is also, I think, not fully appreciated how the otter is being threatened by the loss of its habitat; if it is to be bred successfully it requires both an absence of competing species and, above all, freedom from disturbance. As it has no natural predators in Britain, this means freedom from disturbance by man, whether as angler, yachtsman, camper, hiker or hunter.

There is believed to be some connection between the absence of otters and the presence of the now widely feared alien mink in some parts of the country through competition for food. This competition may not be excessive, as the

otter eats mainly fish whereas the diet of the mink is much more broadly based, but it none the less exists. In addition, evidence from Sweden suggests that otters will not breed where mink are found.

Although it is true that comparatively few otters have been killed by other hounds in recent years, some pregnant bitch otters are believed to abort after being hunted. During the last decade other hounds have killed considerable numbers of otter, which cause havoc among our native wildlife and domestic poultry. They would, I suggest, do better to be put to rest than to be hunted. It is a pity that the attention to this voracious alien carnivore rather than the otter, the gravely endangered native otter.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER LEVER,  
Rye Mead House,  
Windsor Forest,  
Berkshire.  
December 6.

### Criticizing South Africa

From Mr Peter Hardy, MP for Rother Valley (Labour)

Sir, You published an advertisement from the Club of Ten recently which suggested that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office employed double standards in its attitude to South Africa. The advertisement suggested that while South Africa had been criticized for its treatment of sections of the press, no such criticism had been levelled at Pakistan for the arrest of four editors.

In fact, while relations between the press and the present Administration in Pakistan may be poor, the press there may currently enjoy more freedom than it has for some years. And it is apparently more willing to defend itself.

There are other differences between the two Governments' treatment of the press. Charges were preferred against the Pakistan editors immediately. They were held for periods of four and ten days before release. But they have been released, and contrary to the suggestion in the advertisement, there is no evidence that they were ill treated.

In South Africa, on the other hand, three newspapers were banned on October 15, The World, The Weekend World and the Journal of the Christian Institute. The editor of The World, Percy Qoboza, was detained on that date and is still in custody. The editor of another paper, the Daily Dispatch, was "banned" at the same time. No charges have been preferred in either case.

The International Press Institute protested to Pakistan on November 8. You reported that the editors were released on the following day. This Institute and other organizations have protested about the South African Government's actions but to no avail.

I suppose it is too much to expect objectivity from organizations like the Club of Ten but those responsible might do well to read relevant reports in those newspapers in which they advertise.

Yours etc.,  
PETER HARDY,  
Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,  
House of Commons.  
December 7.

### Bus services

From the Chief Executive of the National Bus Company

Sir, It is not clear from your report yesterday (December 7), on Sir Christopher Soames' comments whether he was attacking the Traffic Commissioners or the National Bus Company. Since the former have no office in an independent quasi-judicial capacity, I can only assume they were not his target. If they were, he appears to have been accusing them of partiality in exercising their discretion under the statutes.

As for NBC, our subsidiaries own less than 19,000 out of some 77,000 public service vehicles in Great Britain. If present controls over bus services, by road service licence, and other means in London, were removed, NBC subsidiaries would be free to compete anywhere without constraint. This would include the areas served by the 20,000 or more buses owned by London Transport and the six Passenger Transport Authorities. Executives, controlled by the Greater London and Metropolitan County Councils and some 50 bus undertakings controlled by District Councils in England and Wales. NBC might well be joined in this free for all by some of the independent operators of about 28,000 buses and coaches.

Some may believe that the consequence would be better public transport systems in town and country. NBC, however, does not. We do not think that county and district councils who take their

responsibilities seriously in this field believe it either.

Perhaps Sir Christopher wants different rules in different places. In our view he cannot have it both ways.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BROOK, Chief Executive,  
National Bus Company,  
25 New Street Square, EC4.  
December 7.

### Building conservation

From the Chairman, Building Conservation Association

Sir, If the Government is looking at ways in which North Sea oil revenue may be invested for the nation, a good case could be made for earmarking some of the funds for the rehabilitation of our building and housing stock. This would enable us to pass on to the next generation cities, towns and hamlets which maintain something of our heritage with improved living standards for enjoyment today.

Rehabilitation is, moreover, labour intensive and gives opportunities both for craft skills and factory employment. There could surely be no better use socially or economically for our North Sea windfall.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL REILLY,  
Chairman, Building Conservation Association,  
Store Street, WC1.  
December 8.

## The law for those living together

From Mr D. C. Bradley

Sir, The points which Mr David Green raises in his letter (December 5) overstate the importance of the interpretation of the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976 in Davis v Johnson and disregard the context in which the majority in that case saw the scheme of protection afforded by the Act operating.

The case does not purport to confer a general adjective jurisdiction on the breakdown of cohabitation through violence similar to that which is available to spouses on the grant of a divorce decree, nor did the majority foresee the long term disruption of property rights as an inevitable result of their decision.

What was envisaged was a discretion exercisable by county court judges with their substantial experience in family matters, wide enough to take account of the circumstances of individual cases. Its primary purpose was seen as conferring only short term protection from homelessness while permanent accommodation was found. They also considered that the concept of property rights, and hence the notion of their disruption, was artificial in the many cases which would involve non-assignable council tenancies which were not protected by the Rent Acts and which had no commercial value.

In the light of this approach much of the reaction to Davis v Johnson has been exaggerated. The alternative to denying an unmarried cohabitee and her children temporary shelter and protection from homelessness irrespective of the duration, the circumstances and motives for cohabitation, is not a "mistress's charter" and this is not what the case produces. Many of the difficulties to which Mr Green refers either will not arise or, if they do, will be dealt with by a further application by the injured property owner, before the county court judge.

The real achievement of the case lies not in the extent of the rights which have been conferred but in the willingness to improve and interpret a statutory provision which was clear in its wording but ambiguous in its context to provide relief to a particularly vulnerable section of the community; viz, those at risk from domestic violence and moreover the poorest among them.

Yours faithfully,  
D. C. BRADLEY,  
London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2.  
December 6.

### Changed rules of Equity

From Mr Nigel Davenport

Sir, The article by Lord Oliver in your issue of November 26 under the heading "Union type casting" was most timely. He writes, he says, in panic about the undermining of personal and artistic freedoms within Equity, the actors' union. The freedom is hard to define and, in being so, often hard to protect. But if any faction within our union ever deprived our membership of them it would be working against the freedom for which Equity was formed; it was originally founded only to protect actors' well being along with their personal and artistic freedoms.

Actors, like artists with many different skills and opinions, are peculiarly difficult to organise into a union structure, and the moderate views of the majority make them disinclined to participate in union affairs. But the actors' union is a democracy; they place their personal liberties at stake—as are the liberties of many million moderate members of trade unions throughout this country.

Hopefully, Lord Oliver's article will send blood pumping through sluggish veins.  
Yours etc.,  
NIGEL DAVENPORT,  
47 Phillimore Gardens, W8.  
December 2.

### Second person singular

From Dr Brian Porter

Sir, The increasing tendency in the press to address the Almighty as "You" is much to be deplored. For if persisted in it will lead to the total disappearance from living speech of the thou, the thee, the you, and a consequent impoverishment of the language. Suppose our poets had had to make do with the ugly "you". "Drink to me only with your eyes".

If it is a question of pronouns, how unfamiliar the answer, surely, is not to abandon them but to revive them. We restore our cathedrals, our paintings, and now our historic ships. Should we not care for our car over part of a heritage greater even than these: our English tongue?

The second person singular might be revived as the language of endearment, as in French and who could more effectively do this than the writers of pop songs?

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN PORTER,  
Department of International Politics,  
University College of Wales,  
Aberystwyth,  
Dfined.  
December 6.

### The Lord's Prayer

From Lady Stansgate

Sir, Baron von Higel once said of the New Testament in its original Greek: "It's not even literature—but it's the Bread of Life." In other words, there, beauty of form has never obscured the content of the message.

Whenever I am jaded by modernized versions of the Lord's Prayer I remember this salutary fact and with it, the down-to-earth reaction of a young grand-daughter to whom I was teaching the prayer in its traditional form.

After listening with interest, she paused for a moment and then made the spontaneous request: "Now say it in English!"  
Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET STANSGATE,  
10 North Court,  
Great Peter Street,  
Westminster, SW1.  
December 5.







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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Children

## Teaching youngsters to save wisely

Many readers may feel that having large sums of cash to deploy for their offspring's future benefit is no problem at all, but dealing with parents, occasional or unexpected windfalls frequently finds parents at a loss as to what kind of investments to recommend to their fortunate sons or daughters.

A classic case is where a relative gives a child a sum of money following good exam results. Or perhaps he/she comes into a small inheritance, say a few hundred pounds, in someone's will. What should be done with the money?

If the child has an overwhelming interest in some sport or pastime that involves a fair amount of capital expenditure then at least part of the sum can be fruitfully employed immediately.

But shouldn't one also encourage children to save? They can learn financial discipline from the possession and use of their own account book and learn something of the concept of saving and investment. The subject always reminds me of a cartoon depicting drop-out son and businessman father. "Jesus saves" exclaims the frugal father. "I suppose his dad."

In recommending investments to children there are a number of fiscal considerations. First, any returns from capital supplied by the parents are exempt from the first £5, taxable as the parents own investment income.

In every other instance, children's income is regarded as their own. They can claim the usual personal tax allowance. But the amount of a child's investment income can affect the parents' own child tax allowance, which this year is reduced by £1 for every £1

over £116 that the child under 18 receives in unearned income.

But this restraint will soon vanish, for the full introduction of the new child benefit entails the abolition of the tax allowance (except in special cases).

Since most children will have annual incomes below the level of the personal allowance (£245 at present) the simplest solution is to look for investments where the interest is paid gross, that is, without tax deducted at source.

Building society shares are tax paid by the society and the tax cannot be recovered by the non-tax-paying investor. With all other forms of investment you can reclaim the tax but there is still the administrative inconvenience for parents and children.

Tax-free investments mean exactly that—no tax is payable on the income. But the yields reflect this privilege which is reserved for the non-taxpayer, and a higher return can often be found elsewhere. However, where the child's investment income stands to be lumped with the parents' a "tax-free" investment can be ideal, since it will not increase the parents' tax liability.

Children, like adults, have different investment needs. If the child is very young, with no need to draw out cash, or if he or she has enough in a current account or building society to satisfy the need, saving for a schoolbag or pocket money, it might be a good idea to look at higher yielding investments which "lock up" the money for several years keeping the capital face value at least for eventual use.

National Savings certificates can be bought in a child's name at any Post Office or bank in multiples of £5.

Although you can cash them any time, certificates are designed for a four-year investment. The accumulation of interest, which is not paid but is weighted towards the end of the certificate's life. The current issue yields (over the next year) a compound rate of 7.59 per cent a year. Each £1 unit will reach a value of £1.54 in four years time.

This gain is "tax-free". The certificates are therefore recommended particularly for children whose parents have provided the capital. Special rules apply for holdings of children under seven years old. Their certificates can only be encashed early with the permission of the director of savings, who will need to be convinced of some urgent need for the money.

Local authority loans involve a substantially higher lump sum investment. Although tax is deducted at basic rate on the half-yearly interest payments, it can be claimed back by the non-taxpayer. Minimum investment is around £500.

The rate of interest depends on the number of years for which the money is committed. Leicester City, presently offers a return of 6.1 per cent for one year. You can obtain 9.8 per cent from Hereford and Worcester County Council for three-year money and 10.1 per cent from Trafford for a five-year loan.

British Savings Bonds can be bought in multiples of £5. Like National Savings certificates they can be a good home for excess Christmas or birthday cash which will not be needed for several years. The annual interest rate is 8.1 per cent and it is paid half yearly gross, so there is no need to claw back the tax.

After five years there is a tax-free 4 per cent terminal bonus (the bonds are encash-

able any time). In the case of children under seven interest payments are automatically made into a National Savings Bank account.

Building society term shares are another possibility, although cash paid and the deduction cannot be reclaimed by the non-taxpayer. Term shares are offered by the societies in order to attract more stable funds—the shortest term is two years, for which money the investor will usually collect an extra 1 per cent on top of the recommended investment rate.

For a four-year term, the longest available you can obtain an extra 1 per cent. The differential can vary according to the societies' need for money; it has been as much as 1.2 per cent above the normal rate.

But an older child may want easy access to funds. The National Savings Bank's ordinary account, which will accept deposits of as little as 25p at a time, is suitable for the mini-saver. The four clearing banks have a £1 minimum for deposits and they offer no interest on cash balances.

The NS cash account pays 5 per cent a year, gross. The first £70 of interest on an NS ordinary account is tax-free, so where accessibility and ease of access are important, these two important factors can be one answer.

The return on the NS investment account, where withdrawals are at one month's notice, is 9 per cent—twice the highest rate of return available from clearing banks' deposit accounts. The interest is paid gross, so it is recommended for children who will not be paying tax. But where the child's income is to be aggregated, the NS ordinary account might be preferable.

A building society account can provide instant access-

ibility. A parent can start one on behalf of a child. From the age of eight or nine most societies are quite happy for the child to have his or her own account, which will be added or emptied as he or she wishes. The minimum investment is usually £1 in most societies, but smaller sums are often accepted by branches.

The current rate of 6 per cent tax paid compares favourably with the 5 per cent on offer at the National Savings Bank for ordinary accounts, although, as in the case of term shares, the deduction for tax cannot be reclaimed by the non-taxpayer. But if aggregation is a problem don't forget that building society interest is subject to higher rate taxes.

Finally—what if the older child wants a little fatter in equities? Children over the age of 14 can be registered as unit holders in their own right. Younger children can hold unit trust investments through designated accounts. The units bought for the child are registered in the parents' names, but designated with his or her first initial.

This sort of investment, which is often made as a gift to children, is generally for the very long-term, and it should be remembered by parents responsible for the child that capital values can fluctuate dramatically. Frequently the child will not want or need the regular dividend income; in this case accumulation units, which are designed to build up capital, are the answer. The income, instead of being distributed, is automatically reinvested in the same units. But income tax is still payable.

Margaret Drummond

## Pensions

## Death benefits are of lively interest to most scheme members

Occupational pension schemes do not provide benefits only on retirement: they are also allowed to make payments on the death of a member. As in the case of retirement benefits, the death benefits may be in the form of a pension or a lump sum payment.

For most people joining a new employer the prospect of retirement is a long way off and the amount of pension to be received is of only passing interest. Death benefits are therefore very often of much livelier interest to younger members of a pension scheme.

The majority of people are unaware of the possibilities of leaving their wife and children as widow and orphans, but when faced with the question objectively they will normally concede the importance of provision in the eventuality.

After all, in these days of extensive travel, accidents may befall anyone; and even crossing a busy street in a city centre may be a hazardous undertaking.

There are Inland Revenue and statutory limits on the amount and form of death benefits under an approved pension scheme and on the way they can be paid.

There are still some older schemes where lump sums are not allowed at all, because they have not been brought within the rules for approval, but such schemes are few and will in any case have to be changed by 1980.

Schemes under the approval code now normally applied are allowed to provide a lump sum payment of up to four times the annual rate of pay of a member who dies while still in service. No lump sum may normally be paid on the death of a pensioner.

The "final pay" on which the maximum may be based is more flexibly defined than for purposes of retirement benefits. The rate of pay at the date of death may be used and there is no restriction on the way the average over several years in the case of controlling directors.

On the other hand, to allow for cases where the pension has been reduced—possibly as a result of ill-health—the lump

sum based on "final pay" as defined for purposes of the retirement benefit limitations may be provided if it is greater.

The taxation of benefits on death follows the same principles as those that apply to retirement benefits or for that matter the principles of taxation in general. Pensions are taxed as the income of the person entitled to receive them; lump sums are not subject to income tax.

There is, however, the additional problem of capital transfer tax, which has now replaced estate duty. With capital transfer tax it is possible to ensure that benefits payable on death under an approved pension scheme are free of tax, too, but the position is less clear-cut than in the case of retirement benefits.

The improvement compared with the old estate duty rules is that benefits paid to a widow or widower are free of tax in all circumstances. Benefits paid to anyone else are free of tax, in broad terms, unless the member's estate is entitled to receive them (and they are not left to the widow or widower) or the member had the power to say to whom they were to be paid.

The form of the benefit and the conditions of payment are to be considered in the light of these taxation provisions. Lump sums are payable partly because they carry a clear income tax advantage. They are normally payable under conditions which ensure that there is no capital transfer tax liability.

It is not, however, the only consideration in deciding the form of the benefit: it is normally provided to look after the interests of dependents other than the widow or widower, such as arise from divorce or separation, dependent husbands, common law wives and mistresses.

I shall look in my next few columns at the ways in which schemes try to meet these situations, as well as the more conventional one of a widow, and the extent to which they succeed.

Eric Brunet

## Stock markets

## Scent of cheaper money puts steam into gilts

Hopes of lower interest rates in the not too distant future and the sudden improvement in the industrial scene put gilt-edged stocks at the centre of the interest.

With some dealers expecting this downward trend in rates would start yesterday longer maturities quickly went five eighths ahead and managed to hold those levels in spite of an unchanged MLR. Further buying late in the session took the gains further and by the close many stocks were a full point to the good.

Another feature was the exhaustion of the "long" end which was reactivated in the middle of the week and, as expected, a new short "run" was announced to replace the stock which was taken earlier in the week. Though "shorts" were to some extent subdued by the new stock they still managed rises of around a quarter point.

Many were talking of another cut in MLR before Christmas though the more conservative view was that though the next movement is likely to be down rather than up it is not likely to take place for some weeks.

Up 13p to 156p this week Roulton Hotels has met with good support. The word is that current trading is strong, but there is also talk that one of the big hotel groups may be taking more than a passing interest.

Contrary to some expectations, the breakdown of the stock market has not been their ground at the end of the account. In a mixed and quiet session the FT index moved between extremes of 3.1 down and a final point better. By the close it stood at 485.5, a gain of 19.9 over the fortnight account but 1.8 off over the week.

The best of the industrial leaders was again Bectham which was supported at 637p, a gain of 5p. Unilever rose 4p to 544p, but ICI lost 2p to 366p after news of a Price Commission probe into plans to raise sodium carbonate prices.

The EEC ruling against dual pricing hit Distillers to the tune of 5p to 177p even though the shares were off the bottom of the close. Elsewhere in the sector Irish Distillers was a firm exception rising 4p to 100p.

In foods J. Lyons continued to go ahead after figures rising another 2p to 106p, but Lencore fell 3p to 101p on a cut in earnings. Hillards attracted support at 252p, a rise of 4p on the session.

With the worst now out and some talk of a possible bid for "A", gained another 6p to 54p with Mothercare another 4p in demand, gaining 4p to 194p. But Gus "A" lost 2p to 22p as profits were taken after this week's profits.

Over in electricals Noranda held firm at 45 after figures and GEC continued to rise with another 3p gained at 266p, a rise of 22p on the week. EMI firmed a penny to 181p, but was still 39p lower on the week following the chairman's gloom. Another in retreat this week has been Thorn where a chart of shares to the tune of 15p to 368p over the five days.

The Kensington loan went to 112.87 on its debut, a premium of 12.87 on the issue price. Splink & Son fell another 10p to 25p on the breakdown of sales but revised terms from Northern Engineering lifted International Combustion 4p to 98p. In papers News International was supported at 267p, a gain of 10p, while speculative interest lifted issues like ETV 10p to 114p, Pleasurama 8p to 70p and Redfern 8p to 295p.

A rights issue lowered RCF at first but the shares soon recovered their poise to end unchanged at 30c. Oils managed a rally from the weakness of recent days with the BP and 21p better at 865p and the new 8p ahead at 87p. Shell also went forward, by 5p to 545p.

In less than a fortnight Vantona Group, formed in 1975 by merging Vantona with Sirella, has risen from 107p to 114p. Unlike some other textile companies, this one prospers.

Buyers hope for profits of around £7.3m or more this year against £6.4m, and if the group succeeds in making a cash acquisition at some stage, it will have plenty of room to hoist the dividend. It could double.

In the motor sector distributor Arlington jumped 10p to 117p after reporting a strong rise in profits but component maker James Woodhead dipped 3p to 230p in spite of higher earnings and a spin. A cut in dividend lowered Consolidated Marchion 30p to 270p.

In banks a active Standard Chartered gained 8p to 420p but in merchants both Schroders 10p to 410p and Arbuthnot Latham 5p to 163p went into retreat.

After hours the hope of cheaper money brought buyers for both ends of the gilt-edged range. Even "shorts" made ground in the face of the new "tap".

Equity turnover on December 8 was £75.3m (12.42 in billions). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were Bectham, ICI, BP, BAT, Deferred, Shell, GKN, Distillers, GEC, Gus "A", Burnham, Grand Metropolitan, Thorn, Town & Country, Commercial Union, Royal, National Westminster and Standard Chartered.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fm	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Arlington Mtr (I)	20.5(14.7)	0.67(0.37)	9.4(5.3)	2.5(1.4)	1/2	(6.57)
BP Canada (Q)	—	—	—	120(100)	15/1	(100)
Benson's Roe (F)	5.9(5.3)	0.85(0.19)	0.44(0.09)	—	—	—
Carter's (I)	16.1(13.4)	0.80(0.49)	—	1.0(1.0)	—	(2.0)
Castellon (I)	6.2(5.0)	0.41(0.24)	1.8(1.6)	—	—	—
H. & C. Davis (E)	—	0.05(0.02)	4.05(2.05)	—	—	—
Castellon (F)	1.0(0.73)	0.70(0.40)	10.43(8.23)	2.6(1.8)	14/4	3.3(2.2)
Edinburgh Ice (E)	—	0.01(0.001)	8.8(1.47)	—	—	—
Glenamary (I)	—	0.17(0.14)	1.71(1.45)	1.0(0.85)	2/2	1.7(1.43)
Grovetree (F)	—	—	—	14(4b)	—	190(10b)
Hallam Grp (I)	4.4(5.3)	0.73(2.2)	—	1.29(1.29)	8/1	(2.8)
Harold Ingham (I)	4.0(3.5)	0.51(0.20)	—	4.5(3.5)	8/1	6(4.0)
Marley (F)	—	0.65(0.2)	—	—	—	—
Levens Gr (I)	30.6(25.5)	0.74(0.8)	—	0.42(0.37)	16/1	(1.6)
Macanille Ltd (I)	5.3(3.5)	0.03(0.003)	—	0.39(0.33)	23/1	(1.7)
Marley (F)	—	—	—	24(17b)	—	44b(20b)
Mid-Geor Wtz (F)	—	0.56(0.51)	—	—	—	—
Normand Elec (I)	—	0.38(0.22)	2.7(1.5)	1.05(0.95)	31/1	(2.5)
Stocheit (I)	6.7(7.3)	0.40(0.57)	3.48(5.78)	2.25(2.25)	6/4	(8)
Telford Gr (I)	—	—	—	1.7(1.3)	10/2	(5.0)
J. Woodhead (I)	2.3(1.4)	15.5(10.3)	—	2.4(2.1)	—	(5.0)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.55. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are not. a Loss. b Conts. Includes capital repayment of 5c. d Includes capital repayment of 10c.

## BLACK DIAMONDS PENSIONS LIMITED

(A company wholly owned by the National Coal Board Pension Funds)

## The Offer for the Ordinary Shares of THE BRITISH INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED

closes on  
Monday, 12th December, 1977  
at 3 p.m.

Arrangements have been made so that Ordinary Shareholders who have not yet accepted and who wish to do so can still accept by lodging their completed Forms of Acceptance and Transfer

at

any branch of Midland Bank Limited in England and Wales

or at

any branch of Clydesdale Bank Limited, as agent for Midland Bank Limited, in Scotland

by hand by 3 p.m., this Monday, 12th December, 1977 at the latest when the Offer expires.

Ordinary Shareholders who have mislaid their Forms of Acceptance and Transfer and who wish to accept may obtain additional Forms on request from any branch of Midland Bank Limited or Clydesdale Bank Limited.

Ordinary Shareholders who have already accepted need take no further action.

This statement has been issued by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of Black Diamonds Pensions Limited. The Board of Black Diamonds Pensions Limited has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and all the Directors jointly and severally accept responsibility accordingly.



regular tutoring in a number of subjects...

## The best laid plans of forecasters...

Here we are, then, at one of those knife-edge moments when things are what is technically known as finely balanced. In other words, nobody has the faintest idea what is going to happen next.

Economic witch doctors and even non-economic witch doctors are at odds with one another about the whole thing and the voice of the electronic pocket calculator is heard in the land. Perhaps we should turn to the Society for Long Range Planning for guidance, on the ground that they ought to know more about these matters than the rest of us.

After all, they distinguished themselves as having a nice sense of timing on a past occasion by announcing the venue for their annual conference, which was the premises of the Royal Society of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians precisely nine months before the due date.

So, looking at their programme, first I note that on October 14 they held a seminar entitled "Turning uncertainty to advantage". The mood of comparative optimism is, however, soon to be shattered, for on January 19 we have another seminar entitled "Strategies for survival", to be followed a mere six days later by one on "Corporate Collapse".

The coup de grace is rendered by the title of the national conference to be held on February 14—"Self-defence today for prosperity tomorrow (The crisis of choice)". Ah well.

No wonder everybody is confused and ready to grab the very nearest straw in the wind. For example, in this very newspaper a short time ago, under the headline "Britain is a tiger exporting nation" was a quite detailed account of the growing export trade in British-bred race animals. Last year, it told us, 21 tigers, four leopards, two pygmy hippos, two servals and 200 axolotls were sent abroad.

The axolotl, a small new-like amphibian from Mexico, has an important characteristic: if its memory of the Cambridge natural science trips is correct. Like Peter Pan, it never grows up and is condemned to spend its life in eternal adolescence.

I forget what particular natural trigger is required to cause it to mature and breed, but that fact remains that it generally stays in this state of suspended growth for its whole life.

I must say I wish that we could export a few of our other eternal adolescents in similar manner. Like the trapeze artist who swears that his sword shall not sleep in his hand until every British worker is paid above the average wage.

Like the hard-nosed managing director who insists that his business discipline but never visits his factory floor. Like the Whitehall civil servant and the Lombard Street banker who live in their own little technical worlds and only see life in their own little technical terms.

Francis Kinsman

## Unit trust performance

Medium and income funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unit holder index 2052.8; rise from January 1, 1977: +29.2%. Average change over bid, net income included, over past 12 months: +38.7%; over last three years: +113.4%.

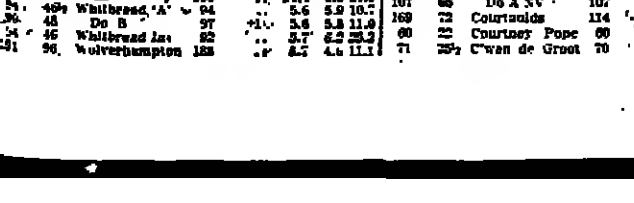
MEDIUM	A	B	C	D	E
Intul	31.7	110.3	8.0	11.0	11.0
Carlisle F	31.4	89.2	—	—	—
Royal Trust Income	30.4	75.6	—	—	—
Family Fund	30.2	84.4	—	—	—
Camden F	29.0	80.0	—	—	—
College Hill	28.1	—	—	—	—
TSB Scottish	26.9	—	—	—	—
Lloyds Bank Second	24.5	135.9	—	—	—
Profit	23.1	94.9	—	—	—
Ionian Growth F	22.4	69.6	—	—	—
National West Growth	22.3	88.1	—	—	—
Buckingham	21.4	80.2	—	—	—
Rowan Meritt	21.1	105.4	—	—	—
Oceanic General	20.2	—	—	—	—
Piccadilly Earn	14.8	32.3	—	—	—
Piccadilly Accum	11.3	83.1	—	—	—
Marlborough	2.1	52.2	—	—	—
M & G General	10.9	109.9	—	—	—
S & P UK Equity	46.2	155.4	—	—	—
Lloyds Bank First	45.0	175.0	—	—	—
NPI Growth Accum F	45.0	155.8	—	—	—
Current Reserves	44.3	162.2	—	—	—
Equity & Law	43.9	180.9	—	—	—
Unicorn Capital	43.9	137.5	—	—	—
Canlife General	43.7	145.7	—	—	—
Trust for Savings	43.7	145.7	—	—	—
Albion Trust	42.8	120.4	—	—	—
Quadrant F	42.8	105.5	—	—	—
Wider Growth F	42.8	140.9	—	—	—
National Security Plus	42.5	144.4	—	—	—
Investment Life Balanced	42.5	172.6	—	—	—
Mutual Blue Chip	41.7	131.5	—	—	—

Equitas	50.8	160.7
Ulster Bank Growth	50.7	142.3
Prudential	50.2	162.4
Allied First	49.2	124.5
Kleinwort Benson F	48.6	116.0
Target Equity	48.6	110.0
Colombo	48.4	150.4
Barbican	48.1	145.8
Arbuthnot Giants	48.0	100.9
Worldwide	47.4	145.2
Franklin Capital	47.1	299.3
Anderson Unit Trust	47.2	
Norwich Union	47.2	269.0
Discretionary F	47.2	214.0
Piccadilly Small Cos	47.6	60.9
Stewart British	49.4	161.5
Piccadilly Private	66.3	126.8
Friends Provident	65.8	248.3
Mk Unit Trust	65.6	126.3
Piccadilly	65.2	124.2
Piccadilly Technology	64.2	158.7
M & G Midland	64.1	206.3
Friars House M	63.8	148.9
Pearlhill	61.5	173.7
Key Smaller Cos	60.8	177.7
Garnmore British	60.5	101.2
M & G	59.5	150.5
London Wall Cpt Gth	58.9	157.9
Britannia Domestic	58.6	115.0
Oceanic Growth	58.1	195.6
Tanger Professional	57.7	148.2
Pearlhill	57.3	191.9
Henderson Inc Assets	57.1	124.1
Legal & General	57.0	207.0
M & G	57.0	213.9
Templeton Worldwide	55.9	129.6
Hill Samuel British	55.5	127.5
Samuel Seligman	55.5	117.4
Samuel Security	55.5	251.7
Schroder Super	55.5	251.7









# Firm end to the account

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES				
The Times Share Indices for 1932-37 show data June 3, 1936 original base date June 2, 1929 —				
	Index No.	Dit. Vlt'd	Earn- ings Yield	Index No.
	Latest	%	%	Previous
<b>The Times Industrial Share Index</b>				
Largest Co's	285.16	6.58	11.78	204.91
Smaller Co's	262.08	7.20	14.23	193.69
Capital Goods	262.08	7.20	13.81	227.63
Consumer Goods	213.46	6.78	11.48	210.37
Share Shares	184.69	5.86	7.51	181.94
<b>Foreign Financial Shares</b>				
Largest financial	255.53	5.56	—	233.36
Largest financial and industrial shares	212.38	6.01	—	211.48
Commodity shares	211.84	6.84	11.84	211.63
<b>Gold Mining Shares</b>				
Industrial	261.34	9.11	17.31	266.54
debtless stocks	94.10	6.34*	—	96.08
Industrial preference shares	63.15	11.34*	—	61.45
War Loans	36.9	10.11*	—	36.4
A record of the Times Industrial Share Index is given below:				
	High	Low		
1910-1911	222.88 (12.46.77)	60.10 (12.32.71)		
1917	225.00 (14.62.77)	131.26 (11.69.77)		
1918	311.52 (16.76.77)	131.26 (11.77.20.74)		
1919	255.69 (18.11.75)	61.02 (10.46.75)		
1920	175.16 (11.11.75)	114.25 (11.12.71)		
1921	187.35 (12.91.73)	114.25 (11.12.71)		
1922	187.35 (12.91.73)	114.25 (11.12.71)		
1923	106.47 (13.04.72)	114.25 (11.12.71)		
* Fin interest yield				







## Christmas Gift Guide

## Christmas Holidays

## Treat yourself this Christmas

Leave all the work to us and take time to enjoy yourself.

## Come to London

London has a special glitter at Christmas. Brilliant theatre, great shows, bright lights, and memorable sights.

## Let us do the work

Be our guest and treat yourself to 2-5 consecutive nights at any of 17 comfortable Trust Houses Forte hotels in London. The cost is from as little as £6 per person per night including English breakfast, service and VAT. So THF will have something to suit your pocket. Treat yourself and make this a Christmas in London to remember.

For reservations and further details telephone 01-567 3444.



## For Everyone

## Save £6.50 on a Polaroid Colour Swinger at Argos.

Capture the fun of Christmas as it happens with these special Christmas offers.

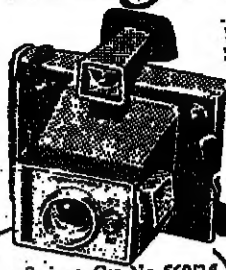
Colour Swinger £10.95  
Super Colour Swinger £15.25  
Super Colour Swinger III £19.25

Remember low Argos prices on Polaroid film too!

Argos

famous names at discount prices.

\*Polaroid and \*Swinger are trademarks of the Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.



Colour Swinger Cat. No. 56024  
Normal Argos Price £16.45  
Argos Special Price £10.95

SAVE £6.50

\*Polaroid and \*Swinger are trademarks of the Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

## For Him

A PRESENT MOST MEN WILL WELCOME  
Real Diamond Swivel Head Glass Cutter

Full instruction enclosed. Price £12.95. HENRIES, 71 STATION ROAD, WEST DRAYTON, MIDDLESEX.

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## THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION.

## HOW TO ENTER

First study the guide carefully. Then answer in full three simple questions. (The answers are all in the advertisements in today's Guide.)

## Christmas Gift Guide Competition Number 16

Clue: You will find them in floral or fruit designs. What are they?

Clue: How much will the gift of the year cost?

Clue: You will probably get one of these on every Christmas card you receive. What are they?

## Now put yourself in Santa's snow boots.

Your sleigh is so laden and time so short that you're not likely to consider traffic wardens every time you pull Rudolph to a stop. Imagine your reaction when you are summoned for parking in a restricted zone.

Then write a 100 word letter to the Clerk of the Magistrates. You are going to plead mitigating circumstances. After all The Times Christmas Gift Guide has made so much extra work this year you can't be expected to notice every yellow line. And remember, a touch of joviality will probably soften the judicial heart.

Then send us your letter, remembering to enclose your full name and address, and indicating which prize you would like to receive should you win.

Three entrants must win every day the Guide is published. Closing date for today's competition, 3 days after today's date. Post this entry to: THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION, No. 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT.

The names and addresses of the winners will be published in The Times. The decision of the judges is final. All entries will be judged on their literary merits.

## For Everyone

## Give a Garden Gift Token instead.



For shrubs, seeds, house plants, tools, fertilisers, greenhouses - any kind of gardening gift under the sun. You can buy and exchange them at over 1000 garden centres and shops belonging to the Horticultural Trades Association.

If you can buy direct by sending a cheque or P.O. (minimum £1 plus 12p for a postage and packing charge) to: The HTA, Dept. 18, Wellesley Rd., Reading, Berks RG1 2RD. Every kind of gift to give a garden life.

## The Creation of a Horse Robert Vayra

All horse lovers and horse painters should buy this book. It is a masterpiece of art and science. It shows how to create a horse from scratch. It is a must for every horse lover.

COLLINS

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## THE BEATLES

25 GREAT LOVE SONGS

including YESTERDAY, I FELT MICHELLE, SHE'S LEAVING HOME, NORWEGIAN WOOD, and many more.

A perfect gift for the one you love.

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## For Everyone

Christmas bargains top quality Italian clothes

Crêpe de Chine shirt, full length, £20.00 - our price £12.95

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